THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

BY STAN LEE & MARIE SEVERIN

WITH GIL KANE, JOHN BUSCEMA, JACK KIRBY & BILL EVERETT

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

VOLUME 3

COLLECTING

TALES TO ASTONISH Nos. 80-101

& THE INCREDIBLE HULK No. 102

STAN LEE • MARIE SEVERIN

WITH GIL KANE, JOHN BUSCEMA,

JACK KIRBY & BILL EVERETT

Collection Editor
Cory Sedlmeier
Book Design
Nickel DesignWorks
SVP of Print & Digital Publishing Sales
David Gabriel
Digital Manager/Production
Tim Smith 3
Digital Production
Kou Chen
Editor in Chief
Axel Alonso
Chief Creative Officer
Joe Quesada
Publisher
Dan Buckley
Executive Producer
Alan Fine

© 2018 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
CREDITS

THE
INCREDIBLE HULK
TALES TO ASTONISH NOS. 80-101
& THE INCREDIBLE HULK NO. 102

Writers: Stan Lee (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 80-101)
Gary Friedrich (No. 102)

Pencilers: Marie Severin
(*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 92-101; No. 102)
Bill Everett (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 80-83)
Jack Kirby (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 80-83)
John Buscema (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 85-87)
Gil Kane (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 88-91)
The Bullpen with Jerry Grandenetti (*Tales Astonish* No. 84)

Inkers: Bill Everett (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 80-83)
John Tartaglione (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 85, 99)
Mike Esposito (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 86, 87)
Gil Kane (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 88-91)
Frank Giacoia (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 92, 93, 101)
Herb Trimpe (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 94-98)
Dan Adkins (*Tales to Astonish* No. 100)
George Tuska (No. 102)
The Bullpen with Jerry Grandenetti (*Tales Astonish* No. 84)

Letterers: Art Simek (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 80, 82, 84, 86, 87, 91-93, 98, 101; No. 102)
Sam Rosen (*Tales to Astonish* Nos. 81, 83, 88-90, 94, 95, 99, 100)
Ray Holloway (*Tales to Astonish* No. 85)
Al Kurzrok (*Tales to Astonish* No. 96)
Gaspar Saladino (*Tales to Astonish* No. 97)

Collection Cover Art: Marie Severin & Dean White

Color & Art Reconstruction: Michael Kelleher & Kellustration

Special Thanks: Ralph Macchio, Terence Doyle & the Richard Howell/Carol Kalish Collection

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
CONTENTS

Introduction by Stan Lee

Tales to Astonish #80, June 1966
"They Dwell in the Depths!"

Tales to Astonish #81, July 1966
"The Stage is Set!"

Tales to Astonish #82, August 1966
"The Battle Cry of the Boomerang!"

Tales to Astonish #83, September 1966
"Less Than Monster, More Than Man!"

Tales to Astonish #84, October 1966
"Rampage in the City!"

Tales to Astonish #85, November 1966
"The Missile and the Monster!"

Tales to Astonish #86, December 1966
"The Birth of…the Hulk-Killer!"

Tales to Astonish #87, January 1967
"The Humanoid and the Hero!"

Tales to Astonish #88, February 1967
"Boomerang and the Brute!"

Tales to Astonish #89, March 1967
"…Then, There Shall Come a Stranger!"

Tales to Astonish #90, April 1967
"The Abomination!"

Tales to Astonish #91, May 1967
"Whosoever Harms the Hulk…!"

Tales to Astonish #92, June 1967
"Turning Point!"

Tales to Astonish #93, July 1967
"He Who Strikes the Silver Surfer"

Tales to Astonish #94, August 1967
"..To the Beckoning Stars!"

Tales to Astonish #95, September 1967
"A World He Never Made!"

Tales to Astonish #96, October 1967
"What Have I Created?"

Tales to Astonish #97, November 1967
"The Legions of: The Living Lightning"

Tales to Astonish #98, December 1967
"The Puppet and the Power!"

Tales to Astonish #99, January 1968
"When the Monster Wakes!"

Tales to Astonish #100, February 1968
"Let There Be Battle!"

Tales to Astonish #101, March 1968
"Where Walk the Immortals!"

The Incredible Hulk #102, April 1968
"--This World Not His Own!"

INTRODUCTION
BY STAN LEE

Boy, are you lucky!

This big, bountiful bombshell of a book will give you a chance to re-live comic-book history!

You see, when our jolly green giant was first introduced to a wildly grateful public, he appeared in his own magazine called, of course, *The Incredible Hulk.* But after a while, he was relegated to co-star status in *Tales to Astonish.*

But, even though his stories were then only half the length they used to be, the fans liked them so much that, by the time we reached issue #102 of *Tales to Astonish,* the reading public's outcry was so loud and demanding that we had no choice but to put ol' greenskin back in his own magazine!

Now here's the good part, the part that'll make you witness to history. The stories you're about to read are the very ones that brought the Hulk's popularity to such a towering peak. They're the ones that forced us to finally take him out of *Tales to Astonish* and to reward mankind for its patience and loyalty with full-length stories in a new magazine series proudly titled with the name of its world-famous star—*The Incredible Hulk!*

And it's no wonder that our favorite rampager's popularity kept growing with every new issue of *Tales to Astonish.* Just wait'll your awestricken eyes get a chance to feast upon the wondrous work of the legendary artists represented in these now-classic tales. I'm talkin' about artists like Jack "King" Kirby who did so many of the exciting, dramatic layouts; Bill Everett, the celebrated creator of Sub-Mariner, whose embellishments added new luster to Jack's award-winning artwork; John Buscema, the Michaelangelo of comics, who chose the Hulk to be his first project after he returned from the world of advertising; Gil Kane, one of comicdom's true immortals, famed for his amazing camera angles and non-stop action; and of course one of fandom's all-time favorites, the supremely talented queen of pencilers, marvelous Marie Severin.

Would'ja believe that's only part of the fun? Some of the world's greatest inkers are also represented in these unforgettable strips, inkers like Frank Giacoia, Herb Trimpe (who later became one of the Hulk's greatest pencilers), Dan Adkins, George Tuska, Mike Esposito and John Tartaglione.

But let's not forget the strips themselves—or the villains, co-stars and themes that kept readers crying for More! More! More!

Incidentally, even though I may sound like I'm bragging about these stories, I want'cha to know that it isn't because I wrote them all. I'm embarrassed to admit there's one that I didn't write. The last tale, the one that appeared in *The Incredible Hulk #102* was written, brilliantly I might add, by the talented Gary Friedrich. You see, I had to go on a lecture trip when that story was needed and didn't have time to write it, thus ending my unbroken streak—and also giving you a chance to see how the Hulk would read when written by someone with a fresher view. Ah, yes, this valorous volume is practically a crash course in comicbookology!

Okay, I won't keep you waiting a minute longer. It's time to talk about the senses-staggering stories, charismatic co-stars and vicious villains you're about to meet on the pandemonious pages ahead!

For starters, we begin with the macabre Mole Man, the terrifying Tyrannus and a whatchamacallit named the Octo-Sapien! That's just to get you in the mood for what follows!

Next you'll meet The Secret Empire, learn about the Orion Missile and get introduced to a super-baddie named Boomerang who's waiting to do his terrifying thing. But hey, that's only the tip of the iceberg.

In the tale "Rampage in the City" the artwork is done by almost the whole batty Bullpen! You'll get a real boot out of this one, not to mention the fact that, if you look closely, you'll see the Sub-Mariner in one of the scenes, although we exercised a lot of restraint by holding him back till—well, you'll see later on.

Among other menaces, there's a robot like none you've seen before, created by a gruesome guy named Gorki. But before you can catch your breath, do you remember The Leader? Well, he creates the deadliest Humanoid of all, the horrifying Hulk-Killer. I guess I don't haveta tell you what happens next.

Just to show that we never run out of villains, Hulk also has to confront the Stranger from Space who actually gets control of our green-skinned hero in order to destroy the human race. (But don't worry. You're still alive, right?)

And, before you can catch your breath, you and Hulky will have to battle the Abomination, the High Evolutionary, The Living Lightning, the Puppet Master, Loki, God of Evil, the Enchantress and the Executioner and—aw, you get the idea. There are so many I can't remember them all!

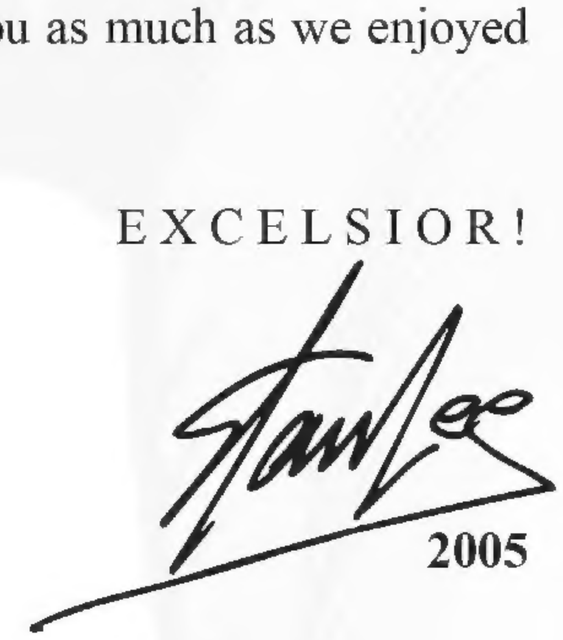
But wait! Here's a couple I do remember—two of the most important ones! Wait'll you see the Hulk in battle with the Silver Surfer—that's right, the good ol' sentinel of the spaceways himself, with his unbeatable cosmic power. As for our mighty muscular hero's other fantastic foe, it's the mighty Sub-Mariner. We just titillated your taste buds by giving you a glimpse of him in ish #84, but this time it's the real deal, a battle you'll never forget!

By the way, did I remember to mention that issue #100 of *Tales to Astonish* is a full 22-page epic? It proves that we knew, even then, how popular the Hulk was and we wanted to start giving you readers as much of purple pants as we could while we were prepping his return to his own big comic book.

Man, those sure were exciting days and I loved every minute of it. Writing those Hulk yarns and working with some of the greatest artists in the biz was an experience I'll always treasure.

But the important thing now is for *you* to treasure the fun and excitement on the pages ahead. So go to it, Bunky. If you enjoy reading the wonderment that's awaiting you as much as we enjoyed creating it, you're in for a wallopin' great time!

EXCELSIOR!



SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TALES TO ASTONISH

80 JUNE

"TO THE DEATH!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"THEY DWELL IN THE DEPTHS!"

BROODING BENEATH A SHINING SOUTHWESTERN MOON, A SILENT FIGURE SITS... HIS CLOUDED BRAIN TRYING TO REMEMBER--TO UNDERSTAND--TO PIERCE THE THICK, UNENDING VEIL OF DARKNESS WHICH KEEPS HIS ONCE-BRILLIANT BRAIN A *PRISONER* WITHIN HIS BESTIAL BODY...

NO PLACE TO GO! NO ONE TO TURN TO! THE WORLD HATES THE *HULK!* THEY HUNT ME--HOUND ME--TRY TO *DESTROY* ME! WHY? *WHY? WHY* DOES IT NEVER *END*--?!!

SCRIPT: **STAN LEE**, D. H. (DOCTOR OF HULKISHNESS)

LAYOUTS: **JACK KIRBY**, M.H. (MASTER OF HULKABILITY)

ART: **BILL EVERETT**, B. H. (BACHELOR OF HULKOSITY)

LETTERING: **ARTIE SIMEK**, P.H. (THE PRIDE OF HULKDOM)

BUT THEN, A *CHANGE* COMES OVER THE GREEN-SKINNED TITAN'S MOOD--

LET THEM FIGHT THE HULK! LET THEM DO THEIR *WORST!*

NOTHING CAN HURT ME!! NOTHING CAN *BEAT* ME!

EVERYTHING THAT *LIVES* IS MY ENEMY--BUT THE *HULK* HIDES NO MORE! LET *MANKIND* HIDE!

I'LL GIVE THEM *REASON* TO FEAR THE *HULK!*

NOISE! COMING FROM GROUND-- UNDERNEATH ME--!

ZZZZZZ

BZZZZZZZZ

SOME *FORCE*-- PULLING ME TO THE GROUND--!! SOMETHING *UNDER* ME-- STRONG!! *TOO STRONG!!* PULLING ME DOWN-- *DOWN*-- *DOWN*--! NO! *HULK* WILL BREAK *AWAY*--!

ZZZZZZ

WHUMMP!

BUT, BEFORE THE BULGING-MUSCLED BEHEMOTH CAN BEGIN TO APPLY THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS INDESCRIBABLE POWER, A SUDDEN BLINDING *FLASH* ERUPTS, AND---

WHIST!

SOMETHING *HAPPENING!!* I'M *FADING* *AWAY*--!

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, HUNDREDS OF LEAGUES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF EARTH, A LIVING OBJECT TAKES SHAPE WITHIN A STILL-GLOWING *MATTER* *TRANSFORMER*--

AT LAST! AFTER ALL THESE DAYS OF SEARCHING-- SEEKING--WE *HAVE* HIM!

THE ONLY MORTAL ON *EARTH* MIGHTY ENOUGH TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!

ZZZZZZZZZZ

BUT--WHAT IF HE TURNS *AGAINST* YOU, EXCELLENCY?

NONE HAVE THE POWER TO TURN AGAINST--*TYRANNUS!!*

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED-- ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE--

NOBODY CAPTURES THE HULK!

CRRAK!

GUNS DON'T SCARE HULK! SHOOT! SHOOT!! I'LL SMASH EVERYTHING! I'LL SMASH YOU ALL!

HOLD YOUR FIRE! I NEED HIM! HE MUST NOT BE HARMED! TYRANNUS SHALL CONFRONT HIM--ALONE!

STOP! WE DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU! I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO HELP YOU--TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER!

YOU LIE! NOBODY HELPS HULK! NOBODY!

THE EMPEROR TYRANNUS DOES NOT LIE!!

TYRANNUS! TYRANNUS?? IF--IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER--!

WE MET ONCE-- IN THE PAST--AS ENEMIES!* BUT NOW, WE MEET AS ALLIES! NOW, WE NEED EACH OTHER-- WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER!

HULK NEEDS NOTHING-- NOBODY!

BEFORE YOU ANSWER-- LOOK! SEE HOW TYRANNUS HAS-- CHANGED!

*LONG-TIME MARVELITES WILL HARKEN BACK TO THE HALCYON DAYS OF YORE, AND MAYHAP WILL REMEMBER TYRANNUS FROM "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST", IN HULK #5! --AGELESS STAN!

BEHOLD!! THAT STATUE-- THAT IS TYRANNUS! THAT IS AS I WAS! THAT IS AS I MUST BE ONCE AGAIN--WITH YOUR HELP!

SOMEWHERE--IN PAST--HULK KNEW YOU! BUT-- TOO LONG AGO! CAN'T REMEMBER! WHO CARES?? HULK HELPS NO ONE!! HULK NEEDS NOTHING!

YOU ARE WRONG! I HAVE BEEN STUDYING THE SURFACE WORLD! I KNOW HOW MEN HOUND YOU--GIVE YOU NO PEACE! BUT I CAN CHANGE ALL THAT! JOIN ME, AND YOU SHALL BE MY WARLORD! HERE, IN MY UNDEREARTH EMPIRE, I OFFER YOU SANCTUARY-- I OFFER YOU--HONOR!

A WORLD WHERE HULK WILL BELONG!! NO MORE HIDING--NO MORE HATE! TELL ME--WHAT MUST HULK DO??

IN ANOTHER PART OF THIS WORLD IS A STRANGE BODY OF WATER--A WELL --WHICH CAN WASH AWAY THE RAVAGES OF TIME-- WHICH CAN MAKE ME ONCE AGAIN THE TYRANNUS OF YORE!! BUT, ANOTHER HAS CAPTURED THAT WELL!

HULK WILL DESTROY HIM! HULK CAN DO ANYTHING!

AND, EVEN AS THE GREEN GOLIATH SPEAKS--

THOUGH I **MYSELF** DO NOT **DARE** TOUCH THE ENCHANTED WATER WITHIN THIS WELL, WE MUST GUARD IT AT **ALL COSTS** FROM MY ARCH ENEMY, THE ACCURSED **TYRANNUS!**

SO LONG AS THE WELL IS **OURS,** TYRANNUS GROWS OLDER--**WEAKER** --WITH EACH PASSING HOUR!

THUS, ALL THE SUB-SURFACE OF EARTH SHALL SOON BE UNDER THE IRON RULE OF--THE **MOLE MAN,** AND HIS SUBTER-RANEAN LEGIONS!

MANY TIMES IN THE PAST HAVE I TRIED TO CONQUER THE **SURFACE WORLD,*** YET, EACH TIME I MADE THE SAME FATAL ERROR--I STRUCK TOO **SOON!**

BUT, **THIS** TIME I SHALL BE **PATIENT!** I SHALL WAIT UNTIL THE FORCES OF **TYRANNUS** ARE ALSO UNDER MY CONTROL!

*AS WE'VE SEEN IN THE NOW-IMMORTAL FIRST ISSUE OF **FANTASTIC FOUR,** AND A WHOLE KABOODLE OF MARVEL MASTERPIECES THEREAFTER! --UBIQUITOUS STAN.

THEN, AS THE SUPREME LEADER OF **ALL** THE VAST UNDER-EARTH MILITARY MIGHT, **NOTHING** CAN STOP ME!

THIS TIME I **CANNOT** FAIL! ALL I NEED DO IS KEEP TYRANNUS FROM REACHING THIS WELL, AND THE INEXORABLE PASSAGE OF **TIME** ALONE SHALL DEFEAT HIM FOREVER!

BUT, SUDDENLY--AN EXCITED **MESSENGER** APPEARS--!

MASTER! MASTER! I BRING **URGENT** NEWS!

THEN **APPROACH** ME--AND **REPORT,** YOU WITLESS NON-ENTITY!

OUR ADVANCE SCOUTS--ON THE PERIMETER OF **TYRANNUS'** EMPIRE, REPORT A MOST DIRE EVENT--!

A **NEW** WEAPON IS ABOUT TO BE HURLED AGAINST YOU--A **HUMAN** WEAPON--THE RAMPAGING SURFACE CREATURE MEN CALL--THE **HULK!!**

THE **HULK!!**

QUICKLY RECOVERING FROM THE STARTLING NEWS, THE **MOLE MAN** BARKS A SWIFT COMMAND, AND THEN...

WARRIORS--STAND YOU **BACK!!** LET THERE BE **ROOM**--!

ROOM FOR THE MOST POTENT, DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON EVER CREATED!! **APPEAR!!** YOUR **MASTER** COMMANDS--!

HAH! I NEED NOT FEAR A **HUNDRED** HULKS!! NOTHING THAT **LIVES** CAN SURVIVE THE ATTACK OF MY ROBOTIC, MULTI-POWERED **OCTO-SAPIEN!!**

THOOM! THOOM! THOOM!

MEANWHILE, IN THE OPULENT QUARTERS OF THE ANCIENT TYRANNUS--

SOON--SOON I SHALL BE AS I WAS! I MUST! I MUST!

EXCELLENCY! THE GREEN-SKINNED ONE HAS EATEN--AND NOW HE RESTS!

HE RESTS ?!!

HE CANNOT REST! THERE MUST BE NO REST FOR ANYONE--NOT UNTIL THE LIFE-GIVING WELL IS MINE AGAIN!

EACH PASSING SECOND BRINGS ME CLOSER TO MY DOOM! ONLY THE MAGICAL WATERS CAN RESTORE MY YOUTH--UNTIL I HAVE BATHED IN THEM, EACH PASSING MOMENT MAY BE MY LAST--!

NO ONE CAN REST TILL TYRANNUS HAS CAST OFF THE MANTLE OF AGE!

AWAKE! THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE! AWAKE, I COMMAND YOU!

IT IS USELESS! EVEN HIS SLEEP IS TOO POWERFUL TO SHATTER! BUT I MUST WAKEN HIM--BEFORE MY TIME RUNS OUT!

AND THEN, THE DEEP, RUMBLING VOICE OF THE HULK ANGRILY BOOMS THRU THE CHAMBER...

LEAVE ME! GET OUT--OR HULK WILL BREAK YOU--LIKE A TWIG!

NO! I'M BEYOND ALL THREATS!

YOU MUST RISE! FOR, IF I PERISH--SO DO YOUR FELLOW SURFACEMEN!

TUGG!

HUH? WHAT--?!!

SEE? YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE I CAPTURED!

BY CAREFUL OBSERVATION, I KNEW THAT THESE THREE HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH YOU! MY MATTER TRANSFORMER PLUCKED THE GIRL FROM AN ARMY BASE--THE OTHER TWO FROM A PLANE WHICH HAD BEEN FOLLOWING YOU!

THE HULK!!

BUT, HE DOESN'T SEEM TO RECOGNIZE US!

IT WOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE IF HE DID!

HULK--YOU MUST HELP US! YOU MUST FREE US FROM HERE! HULK--!!

HULK--TRY TO REMEMBER! I'M YOUR PAL--I'M RICK JONES! YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONCE! THINK, HULK--THINK!

STOP TALKING! YOU'RE JUST ANGERING HIM! HE'S COMING TOWARDS US--!

RICK--HOW COULD YOU CLAIM HE'S REALLY BRUCE BANNER?? HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME! HE--HE DOESN'T CARE--!

QUIET! LET HULK TALK!

HULK HAS *NO FRIEND* --EXCEPT *TYRANNUS!* YOU COME FROM *SURFACE*-- WHERE MEN TRY TO *KILL* HULK! BUT, YOU WON'T *TRICK* ME--!

WAIT! *NO ONE'S* TRYING TO *TRICK* YOU! *TYRANNUS* CAPTURED US! CAN'T YOU *SEE*??

IT'S *HOPELESS!* HE'S MORE SAVAGE, MORE BRUTAL THAN *EVER!* HE'S PUTTING HIMSELF INTO A *RAGE!*

BUT, IF THE HULK *ISN'T* BRUCE BANNER --THEN-- BRUCE MUST BE--*DEAD!*

BANNER! BANNER! BANNER! I *HATE* THAT NAME-- DO YOU *HEAR*?? *HATE IT! HATE IT! HATE IT!*

LOOK OUT! HE--HE'S GOING *MAD!*

THERE *IS* NO *BANNER!* ONLY THE *HULK!* *I'M THE HULK!* THE *HULK!*

GET *BACK!* HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S *DOING!*

SKRUNCH!

BUT, AT THAT VERY SPLIT-SECOND, A THUNDEROUS *ARTILLERY BARRAGE* SHATTERS THE VERY HEART OF TYRANNUS' UNDEREARTH REALM...

EEEEEEEEE

HROOM!

IT'S THE *MOLE MAN!* HE'S *ATTACKING!* HE KNOWS YOU'RE *HERE! GO,* HULK! *GET HIM! SMASH HIM!* FOR *TYRANNUS!*

HE'S *FORGOTTEN* US NOW! HE'S GOIN' ON' A *RAMPAGE* AGAIN! *NOTHING'LL* STOP HIM THIS TIME!

AT LAST! *AT LAST!* HULK HAS SOME-THING TO *FIGHT* FOR! MUST FIND *MOLE MAN*--!

THAK!

FSWW!

ONCE OUTSIDE, THE LUMBERING LEVIATHAN SEES THE ADVANCE SHOCK TROOPS OF THE ENEMY SKIMMING OVERHEAD ON SPEEDY, LOW-FLYING AIR-CYCLES--

RRRR

RK

THEY THINK HULK CAN'T *CATCH* THEM!

BUT *HULK* CAN CATCH *ANYTHING*--!

THOOM!

SKRRAKK!

BY THE TIME HIS INCREDIBLE LEAP HAS CARRIED HIM TO HIS DESTINATION, THE RAGING *HULK* HAS ACTUALLY FORGOTTEN THE *REASON* HE IS ATTACKING THE MOLE MAN'S FORCES! ALL HE KNOWS IS--HE FACES AN *ENEMY*, AND--AS EVER--HIS STAGGERING *POWER* MUST BE UNLEASHED--!

YOU TRIED TO KILL HULK! NOW YOU *PAY*-- NOW *HULK* STRIKES BACK!

NO GUN IS BIG ENOUGH TO STOP *HULK*! RUN! *RUN*! ONLY THE *HULK* NEVER RUNS! ONLY THE *HULK* CAN SMASH *ANYTHING*!

SHOOSH!

BA-OOM!

THE *FREEZE GUN*--ONLY *THAT* CAN SAVE US!

JUST IN *TIME*! THAT CHEMICAL ISO-ICE CAN HOLD A *MOUNTAIN* IN ITS UNBREAKABLE GRIP!

NOW, *QUICKLY*! SUMMON THE *MASTER*! THE *MOLE MAN* MUST KNOW WE HAVE CAPTURED THE *HULK*!

ZIT!

WAIT! LOOK! WITHIN THE BLOCK OF ICE --HE *MOVES*! HE *STRUGGLES*--!

IMPOSSIBLE! THE ICE GROWS *HARDER* WITH EACH PASSING SECOND! *NOTHING* CAN MOVE *WITHIN* IT!

THE--*HULK*-- CAN--MOVE--!

THEN, FINALLY--AFTER THE MOST MASSIVE EXAMPLE OF *MUSCULAR PRESSURE* EVER RECORDED IN THE ANNALS OF CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE...

RRRAKK!

HE'S *FREE!*

IF THE *ICE GUN* COULDN'T STOP HIM--WHAT *CAN??*

HE IS A *LIVING DEMON!* HE'LL DESTROY US *ALL! RUN! RUN!*

THERE'S *NO* PLACE TO RUN! NO PLACE *HULK* CAN'T FOLLOW!

BACK, YOU SPINELESS, BRAINLESS, CRAVEN COWARDS! *BACK,* I SAY!

SO! YOU DARE DESERT YOUR *MASTER!* YOU DARE FLEE FROM THE *MOLE MAN! FOOLS!* YOUR PUNISHMENT SHALL BE BEYOND DESCRIPTION!

BUT I NEED *NO ONE* ELSE! I HAVE *PREPARED* FOR THIS FATEFUL MOMENT!

THERE IS ONLY *ONE* WHO CAN YET WREST *VICTORY* FROM DEFEAT!

BY THE *MOLE MAN'S* COMMAND-- LET THE *OCTO-SAPIEN* COME FORTH!

THOOM!

-AHH!-HE COMES--!

SEIZE THE HULK! NOW--APPLY *MAXIMUM FORCE!* THE GREEN-SKINNED CREATURE MUST NOT ESCAPE! *REPEAT--THE HULK MUST NOT ESCAPE!*

-ARRGHHHH!-NOTHING CAN HOLD HULK! *NOTHING!*

RAVE ON, YOU SAVAGE! YOU HAVE FINALLY MET YOUR *MATCH!* THE HULK IS *DOOMED!*

BUT, THAT STRANGE CONGLOMERATION OF LIMITLESS POWER AND RAMPAGING FURY WHICH MAKES UP THE *HULK,* BECOMES VIRTUALLY *UNCONTROLLABLE* WHENEVER THE CAUSE SEEMS MOST HOPELESS--

HULK IS STRONGER THAN *ANYTHING!!*

BLAM!

THE GRAVITY RAYS--QUICK! USE THEM TO PIN HIM AGAINST THE WALL!

UNNNHHHH!

KAPT!

GOOD! GOOD! EVEN HIS BRUTE STRENGTH CANNOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE MIGHTIEST OF MY CREATIONS!

NOW, WHILE YOUR GRAVITY RAYS KEEP HIM IMMOBILE, USE YOUR OTHER ARMS TO FIRE YOUR LETHAL SHOCK BLASTS!

NOW, YOU BRAINLESS MONSTROSITY--WHILE THE ADVANTAGE IS STILL OURS!

HAH! THAT'S IT! EACH NEW BLAST MAKES HIM WEAKER --AND WEAKER! I'VE WON!

THOK!

NO! NO ONE BEATS HULK! NO ONE!

THOK

THOK!

THOK

TH

HE'S ADVANCING! MORE POWER! MORE POWER! HOLD HIM BACK! HE MUST COME NO FURTHER!

ARRHHH!

KHOK!

THOK!

THOK!

THOK!

YOUR FINAL WEAPON --THE LIFE-REDUCTION RAY! USE IT--USE IT --USE IT!

FOOM

UHHHH!

WE DID IT! HE'S DOWN! NOW--TO KEEP HIM DOWN!

ONE FINAL BURST WILL FINISH HIM! PREPARE TO COMBINE ALL YOUR RAYS IN ONE CATACLYSMIC ONSLAUGHT!

WHEN MERGED TOGETHER, THEY BECOME THE MOST DEADLY SINGLE ELEMENT IN EXISTENCE!

BUT, EVEN WHILE FALLING, THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* MAKES ONE LAST, DESPERATE LUNGE, HURLING THE *OCTO-SAPIEN* OFF-BALANCE, SO THAT ITS FINAL LETHAL BLAST MISSES THE MARK--!

NO! NO! HULK WON'T DIE! HULK *CAN'T* DIE!

STOP HIM! STOP HIM! HE'S FORCING YOU INTO THE *WELL!* THE WATER WILL MAKE YOUR CIRCUITS *EXPLODE!*

TOO LATE! IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE THE *OCTO-SAPIEN* NOW-- BUT, IT'S JUST AS WELL!

EVEN THE *HULK* CANNOT POSSIBLY SURVIVE THE ENSUING EXPLOSION!

SPLOOSH!

AND THEN, AS THE *MOLE MAN* HAS PREDICTED--IT *HAPPENS*--!

BOOM!

FOR LONG, ANGONIZING MOMENTS, NOTHING IS SEEN, NOTHING IS HEARD, NOTHING *MOVES*--

..UNTIL, FROM OUT OF THE THICK, STEAMING VAPOR, A FIGURE SLOWLY RISES--

--BUT, IT IS *NEITHER* THE UN-HUMAN FIGURE OF THE *OCTO-SAPIEN*, NOR THE LUMBERING FIGURE OF THE *HULK*--!

INSTEAD, WHERE THE *HULK* HAD FALLEN...

....THE FIGURE OF *BRUCE BANNER* ARISES!

IT--IT'S LIKE A *MIRACLE!* THE HULK IS *GONE!* I'M *NORMAL* AGAIN!

BUT *WHERE??* *WHY??* AND--*FOR HOW LONG??*

NEXT ISSUE:

THE MOST STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS OF ALL, TO STAGGER YOUR SENSES AND DAZZLE YOUR EYES!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

81
JULY

12¢

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

"THE STAGE IS SET!"

INTRODUCING... THE MAN CALLED: BOOMERANG!

HULKABLE SCRIPT BY: STAN LEE
HULKSOME LAYOUT BY: JACK KIRBY
HULKORIOUS ART BY: BILL EVERETT
HULKATED LETTERING BY: SAM ROSEN

COSTUMES BY TIBOR OF TRANSYLVANIA!

LIKE WE ALWAYS SAY... A STORY HAS TO START *SOMEWHERE!* SO HERE GOES...!

OBSERVE, GENTLEMEN! THIS FILM WAS TAKEN BY ONE OF OUR *AGENTS*, WHO WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE SPYING AT GENERAL ROSS' *MISSILE BASE* AT THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN THE *HULK* MADE HIS FANTASTIC ESCAPE!

PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION *HERE*, GENTLEMEN! THE SCENE YOU ARE NOW ABOUT TO WITNESS IS A *VITAL* ONE... IN OUR MASTER PLAN!

YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THIS IS WHERE THE *HULK* BEGINS TO EXECUTE ONE OF HIS ALMOST UNIMAGINABLY POWERFUL *LEAPS* INTO THE AIR! IN THE BACKGROUND YOU CAN SEE *GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS* BARKING AN URGENT COMMAND!

IT IS *THAT* COMMAND WHICH MOST CONCERNS US!

AND *THERE*... ZEROING IN ON THE *HULK*, IS THE REASON *WHY!*

THAT ROCKET, GENTLEMEN, IS THE AIR FORCE'S DREAD *ORION MISSILE*.. ONE OF THE GREATEST WEAPONS IN AMERICA'S ARSENAL!

...A WEAPON WHICH *WE*, OF THE *SECRET EMPIRE*, MUST POSSESS.. FOR OUR OWN PURPOSES!

BUT, WOULD THE *HULK* HIMSELF NOT BE A *GREATER* PRIZE?

THOOM!

SILENCE! SEE HOW THE *ORION* IS PROGRAMMED TO *BLOW UP* WITHIN ONE HUNDRED FEET OF ITS TARGET!

BE SURE TO NOTE THE GREAT RING OF *IONIC ENERGY* WHICH THE EXPLOSION HURLS TOWARDS ITS VICTIM..!

THE *SHOCK* WAVE WHICH ENSUES, WILL SEND *ANYTHING*, OR *ANYONE* PLUNGING TO EARTH...

..EVEN THE *HULK!*

NEEDLESS TO SAY, HOWEVER, HIS GREAT STRENGTH SAVED HIM FROM ANY INJURY WHEN HE FINALLY LANDED!

A BEING SUCH AS *HE* WOULD INDEED BE A PRIZE FOR US... BUT HE IS TOO DANGEROUS..TOO UNCONTROLLABLE!

WE MUST CONCENTRATE INSTEAD UPON THE *ORION MISSILE!*

THUS ENDS OUR LITTLE FEATURE FILM, GENTLEMEN!

I TRUST YOU FOUND IT, EH, *EDUCATIONAL!*

INDEED IT *WAS* NUMBER FIVE!

AS CHIEFS OF OPERATIONS FOR NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE, IT IS *OUR* JOB TO SELECT AN AGENT TO OBTAIN THE MISSILE FOR OUR *SECRET EMIPE!*

CLICK

YOU ARE *RIGHT*, NUMBER SEVEN!

THE ONLY LOGICAL CHOICE IS...THE *BOOMERANG!* IF ANYBODY CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS, IT IS *HE!*

I'LL CONTACT HIM AT ONCE...VIA OUR PRIVATE MICRO-WAVE-LENGTH!

KLIKKITY KLAK!

MOMENTS LATER, IN ANOTHER CITY..IN ANOTHER STATE..

BOOMERANG SPEAKING! TELL ME THE DETAILS AND GIVE ME THE *PRICE!* OVER!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, FRED?

JUST FIDDLING AROUND WITH MY CITIZENS BAND WALKIE-TALKIE, DOLL! I GET A REAL *CHARGE* OUT OF IT!

TALK *FAST*... AND KEEP IT *LOW!* YOU HAVE EXACTLY THIRTY SECONDS!

YOU WERE SO *GLAMOROUS* A FEW SEASONS AGO WHEN YOU WERE A STAR *PITCHER!* WHAT A PITY THEY *SUSPENDED* YOU!

I DON'T MISS IT! I'VE FOUND MANY MORE *IMPORTANT* THINGS!

THE *ORION MISSILE?!!* I UNDERSTAND! I'LL DO IT! OVER AND OUT!

THE SPORTS WRITERS ALL SAID THAT YOU COULD HAVE BEEN THE *GREATEST!*

BY THE WAY, HANDSOME...WHAT *ARE* ALL THOSE IMPORTANT THINGS YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT?

THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT YOU THAT I DON'T KNOW... THAT I FEEL I'LL *NEVER* KNOW!

COME *OFF* IT, HONEY! YOU'RE MAKING ME SOUND LIKE A POOR MAN'S *JAMES BOND!*

I'VE JUST GOT A LOT OF CONFI-DENTIAL *BUSINESS DEALS* IN THE WORKS, THAT'S ALL!

AND NOW, *YOU'D* BETTER BE GOING, TOO, HONEY! SOMETHING CAME UP THAT I'VE GOT TO ATTEND TO *RIGHT AWAY!*

LET ME TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THAT DINNER-DANCE AT ARTHUR'S!

ALL RIGHT, FRED..THERE'LL BE OTHER NIGHTS!

BUT, IF YOU BREAK *ONE MORE* DATE WITH ME... IT'LL BE THE *LAST TIME!*

IF MY *LUCK* DOESN'T HOLD OUT ON THIS JOB, IT REALLY *WILL* BE THE LAST TIME!

WISH ME LUCK, LADY! IF THIS DEAL TURNS OUT OKAY, I'LL BE ON *EASY STREET* FOR LIFE!

I'LL CALL YOU FIRST CHANCE I GET!

FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T HOLD MY BREATH!

THEN, NO SOONER HAS THE IRATE GIRL DEPARTED, WHEN...

I CAN'T WASTE ANY TIME! THIS JOB IS A *BIG* ONE! I'LL START SCOUTING THE MISSILE BASE *TONIGHT!*

IT'LL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO SLIP INTO MY *WORKING GEAR*...

AND THEN, THE *BOOMERANG* WILL STRIKE TONIGHT!

MEANWHILE, AS WE SAW LAST ISH, THE SUBTERRANEAN FORCES OF THE MYSTERIOUS *MOLE MAN* SWEEP RELENTLESSLY TOWARDS THE HEART OF *TYRANNUS'* KINGDOM!

ATTACK, MY MINDLESS MINIONS... *ATTACK!*

TYRANNUS MUST BE DESTROYED BEFORE HE CAN FIND THE SOURCE OF THE *YOUTH FOUNTAIN!*

SO LONG AS HE REMAINS AN AGED, HELPLESS RELIC, NOTHING CAN STOP ME FROM OVER-RUNNING ALL OF EARTH'S CORE!

BUT, WHEN THE TWO FANATICAL FORCES FINALLY COME TO GRIPS, NEITHER SIDE NOTICES THE TATTERED, DESPERATE MAN WHO VIEWS THE SCENE WITH EVER-GROWING CONCERN..!

I'VE GOT TO FIND *BETTY*... SHE, MAJOR TALBOT, AND RICK WERE TRAPPED DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE!

IF THEY WERE TO BECOME EMBROILED IN THIS FIGHT, *ANYTHING* MIGHT HAPPEN!

PAM!

FWOOM!

FSSST!

KPOW!

AND, I HAVEN'T A MINUTE TO WASTE! IT WAS A *MIRACLE* THAT I CHANGED FROM THE *HULK* TO *BRUCE BANNER* WHEN I DID, BUT...

--I MIGHT BE REVERTING BACK TO THE *HULK* AGAIN AT ANY MOMENT... SO, I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM *FIRST!*

THE LAST I SAW OF THEM, THEY WERE *CAPTIVES*, WITHIN THE CITY OF *TYRANNUS!*

IF ONLY I CAN *REACH* THEM BEFORE THEY'RE ENGULFED BY THE EVER-SPREADING *BATTLE!*

IT WOULD BE EASY FOR THE *HULK* --- HE'D HUFF AND PUFF AND *SMASH* THE WALLS DOWN!

SUDDENLY, AS BRUCE BANNER REACHES A FORK IN THE WINDING TUNNEL, HE SEES ...

TYRANNUS!!

OUT OF MY WAY, STRANGER!! OUT OF MY WAY! I CAN STOP FOR *NOTHING!*

I MUST FIND THE ENCHANTED FOUNTAIN AND REGAIN MY *YOUTH!*

GIVE ME THAT RAY GUN! YOU GO *NOWHERE* UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE THREE SURFACE-PEOPLE PRISONERS YOU'RE HOLDING!

I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT *PRISONERS!* THERE WAS ONLY *ONE* SURFACE PRISONER I TOOK... THE GREEN-SKINNED *HULK!*

I DESIRED HIM TO BATTLE THE *MOLE MAN* FOR ME... BUT HE *ESCAPED!*

I *KNOW* ABOUT THE HULK... A LOT MORE THAN YOU CAN SUSPECT! BUT THE *OTHERS*... WHERE ARE *THEY? WHERE ARE THEY?!*

THEY WERE OF NO *USE* TO ME... SO I RETURNED THEM TO THE *SURFACE!*

HOW, MAN? HOW DID THEY GET *BACK??*

BY MY *MATTER TRANSMITTER,!* OF COURSE..! *OH--!!*

MY HEAD!! IT'S FALLING TO THE *GROUND!* IT MUSTN'T *BREAK!!* OH *NO! NO!!*

IT IS ALL THAT *REMAINS* OF MY FORMER DAYS OF *GLORY*... DAYS WHEN ALL WHO LIVED BENEATH EARTH'S SURFACE PAID HOMAGE TO *TYRANNUS!*

I'M WASTING MY TIME WITH HIM! HE CAN'T TELL ME ANY MORE! IT'S UP TO *ME* NOW!

I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM *MYSELF!*

ONCE I FIND THE MYSTIC FOUNTAIN, I'LL BE *YOUNG* AGAIN! AND THEN, THE WORLD WILL BE *MINE!*

I'LL SEARCH EVERYWHERE... *EVERYWHERE!* I'LL NEVER STOP LOOKING! *SOME DAY,* I'LL FIND IT!

I'VE GOT TO *HURRY!* I MIGHT CHANGE BACK TO THE *HULK* WITHIN MINUTES!

AND, AS BRUCE BANNER RACES THROUGH THE WEIRDLY WINDING TUNNELS ...

WHAT'S *THIS* ON THE THE GROUND? IT..IT'S *MOISTURE!!* I'VE *FOUND* IT! 'TWAS *FATE* MADE ME DROP THE HEAD!

SOON... *SOON...* I'LL BE AS YOUNG AND HANDSOME AS BEFORE! *THEN,* LET MY ENEMIES *TREMBLE!*

I'LL DESTROY THE MOLE MAN! AND THEN, ONE DAY, I'LL ATTACK THE *SURFACE WORLD!*

NOTHING CAN KEEP ME FROM MY DESTINY *NOW!*

EVEN THE *HULK* MUST BE PUNISHED FOR DESERTING ME!

AND HE *WILL* BE... THEY *ALL* WILL BE!

WHILE, THOUSANDS OF FEET ABOVE, THREE FIGURES BEGIN TO MATERIALIZE ON THE SURFACE OF THIS WONDROUS PLANET OF OURS...

WITHIN SECONDS, THE EPHEMERAL, GOSSAMER IMAGES ASSUME THEIR NATURAL FLESH-AND-BLOOD FORMS... AND THEN...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT... WE'RE *BACK*... SAFE AND SOUND!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT WE *SAW* DOWN THERE! IT'S LIKE SOME *MAD NIGHTMARE!*

BUT, WE *DIDN'T* DREAM IT! AND THE *HULK* IS STILL *DOWN THERE!*

IF THAT'S SO, THEN WE SHOULD BE *GRATEFUL!* HE WON'T MENACE THE HUMAN RACE ANY LONGER!

BUT HE WAS *NEVER* A MENACE! HE JUST WANTED TO BE LEFT *ALONE*... NOT TO BE *HOUNDED*... NOT TO BE HUNTED LIKE SOME WILD ANIMAL!

AND.. IF WHAT RICK TOLD US IS *TRUE*... IF HE REALLY *IS* BRUCE BANNER.. THEN.. I'VE *LOST* HIM... *FOREVER!*

SOMEONE'S COMING!

THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT TALBOT *WANTS!* NOW HE CAN HAVE THE INSIDE TRACK WITH BETTY ROSS!

LOOK! THERE SHE IS! WE'VE *FOUND* HER!

MISS ROSS, YOUR FATHER'S HAD EVERY MAN IN THE AREA SEARCHING FOR YOU FOR *HOURS!* ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MAJOR TALBOT! AND THE KID, RICK JONES! WE'VE FOUND 'EM *ALL!*

WE'RE ALL OKAY! I'LL REPORT TO THE GENERAL AS SOON AS YOU GET US BACK TO THE POST!

NASA 622B

GENERAL ROSS WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO SEE *YOU*, SIR, SINCE YOU'RE OUR CHIEF *SECURITY OFFICER*, AND HE'S CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE *ORION MISSILE!*

HAVE ALL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BEEN TAKEN IN MY ABSENCE, LIEUTENANT?

YES, SIR! WE HAVE A TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR GUARD COVERING THE ROCKET!

GOOD! NOW LET'S GET GOING!

POOR DAD! HE MUST HAVE BEEN *FRANTIC* WITH WORRY!

BUT, AS THE WEARY LITTLE GROUP PREPARES TO CROWD INTO THE STURDY JEEP, A STRANGE COSTUMED FIGURE WATCHES THEM WITH COLD, MERCILESS EYES..!

I'M IN *LUCK!* I'VE FOUND THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER!

ONCE *SHE* BECOMES MY HOSTAGE, THE *ORION MISSILE* WILL BE *MINE!*

AND THEN *BOOMERANG* WILL HAVE TRIUMPHED AGAIN!

I'VE MORE THAN ENOUGH *METAL DISCS* TO DO THE JOB QUICKLY!

A MERE HANDFUL OF MEN WILL BE NO MATCH FOR *ME!*

THIK!

AND THEN, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...

WHAT'S THAT??!

FTAK!

THE STEERING WHEEL SHAFT!! SOMETHING SHEARED IT CLEAN OFF!

BRAKE HER, MAN...BEFORE WE CRASH!

LOOK! THAT NUT IN A COSTUME!! HE'S THE ONE THAT DID IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TOSSIN', MISTER--BUT THE BALL GAME'S OVER! DROP IT!!

COME NOW, SOLDIER... YOU WOULDN'T SHOOT A MAN IN COLD BLOOD WHO IS MERELY HOLDING A SMALL METAL-DISC, WOULD YOU?

HE'S RIGHT! HOW CAN I SHOOT A MAN SIMPLY BECAUSE HE BROKE OUR STEERING WHEEL?!

BUT, AS THE PUZZLED OFFICER HESITATES, PONDERING HIS NEXT MOVE, THE MAN CALLED BOOMERANG STRIKES WITH THE SPEED AND POWER OF A LIGHTNING BOLT...!

MY RIFLE BARREL..!!

FTAAK!

THAT MOMENTARY PAUSE WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED, MISTER! I'M MUCH OBLIGED!

THEN, BEFORE THE MILITARY MEN CAN MAKE A MOVE, ANOTHER WHIRLING DISC, HURLED LIKE A FLYING PROJECTILE, UPSETS TWO OF THE DUMBFOUNDED SERVICEMEN BY STRIKING JUST THE RIGHT NERVE AS IT BOUNCES ACROSS THEIR KNEES...!

LOOK OUT!!

UHHH!

CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE!

KAK!

STAP!

HE'S DISARMED 'EM!...BUT LET'S SHOW HIM THAT TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME!

C'MON, KID... GRAB SOME ROUND STONES..!

WHO IS HE?? HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY THROW THOSE DISCS WITH SUCH SPEED... SUCH ACCURACY?!!

I DUNNO... BUT THE MAJOR'S RIGHT! WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE DOIN' NOTHING!

LET'S BOTH PEPPER 'IM AT ONCE!.!

I ADMIRE YOUR HIGH RESOLVE, GENTLEMEN!

WHAT A PITY IT'S WASTED ON A MAN WHO IS AS AMBIDEXTROUS AS I!

ZZZT-!

LOOK! HE'S TOSSING TWO AT THE SAME TIME.. ONE WITH EACH HAND!!

IF THIS WERE THE *WORLD SERIES* RIGHT NOW...THE UMP WOULD BE SHOUTING... *YER OUT!*

IT'S NO USE, MAJOR! HE'S TOO *FAST* FOR US!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE NEVER *MISSES!*

KAK!

THIK!

AND *NOW*, YOUNG LADY... WHILE YOUR TWO FRIENDS WAIT FOR THEIR ARMS TO STOP ACHING, IT'S TIME FOR YOU AND ME TO TAKE A LITTLE *TRIP!*

MAJOR! HE'S TRYING TO RUN OFF WITH *MISS ROSS!*

NO! STAY AWAY! DON'T..!

OVER MY *DEAD BODY*, BOY!

IF ONLY MY *ARM* WOULD STOP THROBBING..!

IT *WILL*, MAJOR...IT WILL! BUT NOT BEFORE I'VE SAFELY *DEPARTED* WITH MY UNWILLING COMPANION!

OH, BY THE WAY! TELL *GENERAL ROSS* I'LL BE HAPPY TO RELEASE HIS DAUGHTER...AS SOON AS HE HAS DELIVERED THE PLANS FOR THE *ORION MISSILE* TO ME!

WHAT?!! YOU THINK YOU CAN GET THE SECRET OF ONE OF OUR MOST VITAL WEAPONS AS EASILY AS *THAT?!!*

GLEN... HELP ME! STOP HIM!

EVERY *ARTISTE* MAKES HIS ART LOOK EASY, MAJOR! AND NOW... IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO SAMPLE MY MOST *POTENT* WEAPON!

IN CASE YOU'VE WONDERED WHY I'M CALLED *BOOMERANG*... THIS MAY GIVE YOU A SLIGHT *CLUE..!*

BRACE YOURSELF, MISS ROSS! WHEN THAT LITTLE PLAYTHING OF MINE STRIKES THE *HILL* YONDER...IT'LL BE LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY!

IT MAY *LOOK* LIKE AN ORDINARY BOOMERANG... BUT IT CARRIES POWERFUL *ELECTRIC CHARGES*, WHICH IT RELEASES ON CONTACT!

AND, AS YOU CAN *SEE*, IT'S CAPABLE OF SHATTERING A *HILL!*

HIS BOOMERANG IS CAUSING A *ROCK SLIDE!!*

BA-K-O-O-M!

AND IT'S RETURNING TO HIM LIKE AN *ARROW!*

BUT *WE'RE* TRAPPED BEHIND THE ROCKS! WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP HIM NOW!

THERE NOW! *THAT* WASN'T SO DIFFICULT, WAS IT?

BUT... HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO *ESCAPE* FROM THIS DESERT TRAINING AREA?? YOU'VE NO CAR... NO PLANE..!

I'M *SURPRISED* AT YOU, MISS ROSS! WHY DO YOU THINK I'M WEARING SUCH OUTLANDISH *BOOTS*?

THE DAUGHTER OF *THUNDERBOLT ROSS* SHOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THEM AS *RETRO-BOOTS* IMMEDIATELY!

WE'RE.. *FLYING!!!*

AHHH! I'M DELIGHTED THAT YOU FINALLY *NOTICED!*

AT THAT MOMENT, THOUSANDS OF FEET UNDERGROUND, A DESPERATE *BRUCE BANNER* FINDS HIMSELF IN THE THICK OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE SUBTERRANEAN FORCES OF THE *MOLE MAN* AND THE LAST SAVAGE REMNANTS OF *TYRANNUS'* ONCE-POWERFUL ARMY, AS HE SEARCHES FOR A WAY TO REACH THE SURFACE...

IF THE *MATTER TRANSMITTER* IS ANYWHERE, IT MUST BE IN THE *SCIENCE BUILDING*, AHEAD OF ME!

BUT, TO *REACH* IT, I'VE GOT TO RISK RUNNING RIGHT BETWEEN BOTH FORCES!

YET, I'VE NO CHOICE! *ANYTHING* IS BETTER THAN BEING TRAPPED DOWN *HERE!*

LOOK! AN ACCURSED *SURFACE MAN*..WANDERING AMONG US!

THROB

BOOM!

PERHAPS *HE* IS TO BLAME FOR OUR PLIGHT! TYRANNUS WAS *SUPREME* UNTIL THOSE FROM THE WORLD ABOVE INVADED US!

HE IS A *SPY* FOR THE MOLE MAN'S LEGIONS! BUT HE WILL SPY UPON US *NO LONGER!*

STOP, YOU FOOLS! I'VE NO INTEREST IN YOUR BATTLE! ALL I WANT IS TO *LEAVE* THIS WRETCHED PLACE!

KILL HIM! PUNISH THE SPY FROM THE SURFACE!

NO! NO! IF I MUST DIE... I WON'T LET IT BE FOR *NOTHING!* AFTER ALL I'VE FACED IN THE PAST... IT CAN'T END LIKE *THIS! IT CAN'T! IT CAN'T!!*

AND, AS THE VALIANT SCIENTIST FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE, HIS TEMPER BEGINS TO RAGE UNCONTROLLABLY.. ONCE AGAIN CAUSING THE MOST INCREDIBLE *TRANSFORMATION* OF ALL...!

YOU THINK YOU CAN DESTROY THE *HULK?!!*

HE'S *CHANGED!!* HE'S GROWN *LARGER*... MORE *POWERFUL!!* AND HIS SKIN... IT'S BECOME... *GREEN!*

NOBODY CAN STOP THE *HULK!!* I'LL SMASH YOU *ALL!*

HE'S A LIVING *FURY*... A *MONSTER*... *UNHHHH..!*

THEN, LIKE A GIGANTIC HUMAN *PILE-DRIVER*, THE GREEN BEHEMOTH PLOWS A PATH THROUGH HIS HAPLESS FOES AS IF THEY'RE TOY SOLDIERS..!

GOT TO REACH BUILDING... AHEAD OF ME!! NOTHING WILL STOP HULK!

DON'T REMEMBER *WHY* MUST REACH BUILDING... BUT HAVE TO KEEP *GOING*..!

SCIENCE

THROK!

NOTHING STANDS IN THE WAY OF HULK!! *NOTHING!!*

CRAKK!

FLEE! FLEE FOR YOUR *LIVES!!*

HE'S TEARING THE CITY *APART*.. WITH HIS *BARE HANDS!!*

THIS IS THE BUILDING! BUT... *WHY* DID THE HULK *COME* HERE?? GO INSIDE... MAYBE FIND OUT..!

SPAK!

KOOM!

PTHIK!

HAVING REVERTED TO THE RAMPAGING, UNTHINKING HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE WHICH IS THE *HULK*, THE GREEN GIANT CANNOT BEGIN TO FATHOM WHAT CONFRONTS HIM WITHIN THE HALL OF SCIENCE...

MACHINES!! I *HATE* MACHINES! ONLY *POWER* MATTERS... POWER LIKE *HULK'S!!*

POK!

BUT SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN HIS CLOUDED BRAIN, A SPARK OF *BRUCE BANNER'S* SLOWLY-FADING INTELLECT STILL REMAINS...

... JUST ENOUGH SPARK TO GUIDE THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* UP TO THE PLATFORM ATOP THE COMPLEX MACHINE WHICH STANDS BEFORE HIM...

HAVE TO CLIMB UP... GET TO TOP...

AND, AS THE FINAL FAINT EMBER WHICH HAD BEEN BRUCE BANNER'S MENTALITY FINALLY FLICKERS OUT..

HAVE TO LIE DOWN HERE!

SOMETHING... *HAPPENING*... BUT, CAN'T GET UP..!

ABRUPTLY, AN *AUTOMATIC CIRCUIT* IS ACTIVATED, AS INVISIBLE WAVES OF ENERGY PLAY OVER THE UN-COMPREHENDING FIGURE...

... UNTIL HE SLOWLY FADES FROM SIGHT... TAKING HIS LEAVE OF ONE STRIFE-TORN WORLD, ONLY TO FACE *ANOTHER* ON THE HOSTILE SURFACE ABOVE...

NEXT ISSUE:
THE HULK MEETS THE BOOMERANG!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

TALES TO ASTONISH

82 AUG

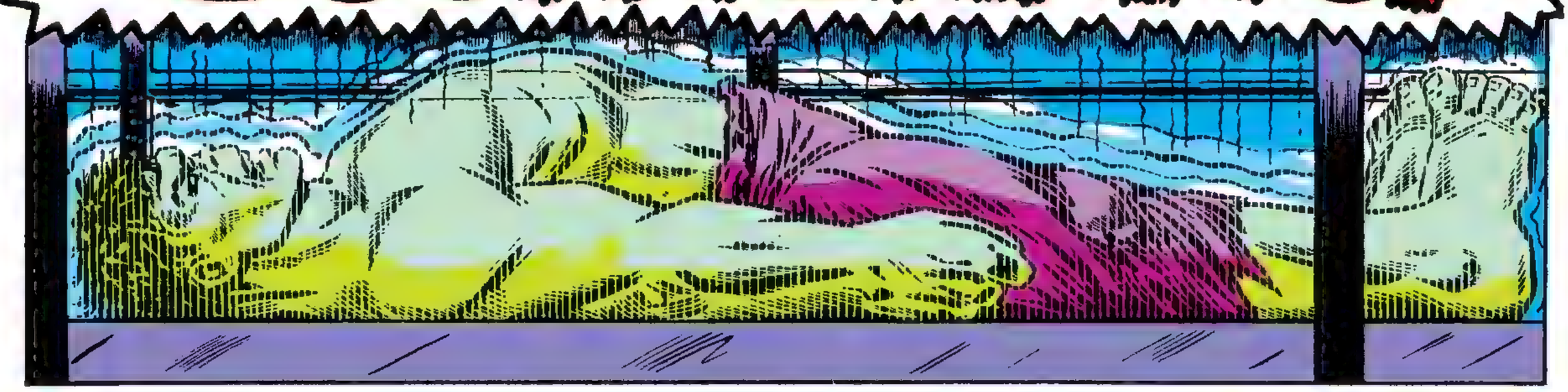
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢

"THE POWER OF IRON MAN!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"The BATTLE CRY of The BOOMERANG!"



LYING ATOP AN ULTRA-POWERFUL *MATTER TRANSMITTER*, FAR BELOW THE SURFACE OF EARTH, IN THE DARK DOMAIN OF *TYRANNUS*, THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* IS MYSTERIOUSLY TRANSPORTED--BY INVISIBLE WAVES OF SUBTRONIC ENERGY --THOUSANDS OF FEET UP TO THE *SURFACE*--WHERE *NEW DANGER* AWAITS THE GREEN-SKINNED TITAN--

HULK BACK IN HIS *OWN* WORLD! BUT-- MEN *SHOOT* AT ME AGAIN! *DANGER!* MUST *ESCAPE!* MUST *FIGHT BACK!*

WHAP!

MEN *ALWAYS* ATTACK HULK! BATTLE NEVER ENDS! WHY? *WHY??*

RAAK!

KPOW!

POK!

BAMM!

FFOOM!

ANOTHER CHEERY CHAPTER IN THE MOST IMAGINATIVE, MOST SPECTACULAR SUPER-SERIAL OF ALL TIME! PASSIONATELY PRESENTED BY:

STAN LEE, *WRITER*
JACK KIRBY, *DESIGNER*
BILL EVERETT, *ILLUSTRATOR*
ARTIE SIMEK, *LETTERER*
and
A TOUCH OF THE MUSE, *INSPIRER!*

MOVING WITH A LUMBERING SPEED THAT BELIES HIS MASSIVE FRAME, THE AWESOME *HULK* THUNDERS TOWARD A GIGANTIC BOULDER, A HUNDRED FEET AWAY--AS THE SUDDEN, DEADLY *ARTILLERY BARRAGE* INCREASES ITS DEAFENING INTENSITY...

BOOM!

TLAK!

THWOK!

WOK!

SKREEEE EEEEE

NO ONE SHOOTS HULK! *NO ONE!*

SKREEEEEE

PTEOW

BLAM!

BUT, BEFORE THE RAMPAGING GIANT CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, THE MASSIVE BOULDER WHICH HE HAS LIFTED WITH HIS BARE HANDS IS *SHATTERED*--SPLINTERED INTO COUNTLESS FLYING ROCKS BY A *DIRECT HIT* FROM A HURTLING *MISSILE*--!

F-O-O-M!

ANY OTHER LIVING MORTAL WOULD MOST CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN *ANNIHILATED* BY SUCH A BLAST--BUT, THIS IS NO ORDINARY MORTAL WHOSE CHRONICLE WE NARRATE --THIS IS--THE INCREDIBLE *HULK!*

CAVE--UP AHEAD! PLACE TO HIDE--! MUST REACH IT--!

EEEEEEEE

BRROK!

RAK!

AND THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD BEGUN--THE SHELLING *STOPS!*

THEN, MINUTES LATER...

I TELL YA I *DID* SEE HIM! IT WAS THE *HULK!*

WHY WOULD HE POP UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A *MISSILE-TESTING RANGE?*

WHO CAN FIGGER OUT WHY THAT REFUGEE FROM A NIGHTMARE DOES *ANYTHING?*

BUT IT *WAS* HIM! IT *HADDA* BE! NO ONE *ELSE* IS BUILT LIKE THAT--WITH *GREEN SKIN*, TO BOOT!

SHOOTING STOPPED!

SOLDIERS GONE!

HULK CAN LEAVE NOW!

ONLY ONE WAY TO GO--

--WHERE NO ONE CAN FOLLOW--!

HIGH INTO SKY--!

BUT, NO SOONER DO HIS MIGHTY LEG MUSCLES PROPEL THE HULK INTO THE AIR, THAN--

THOOM!

IT'S HIM! THEN HE WAS IN THE AREA!

HE'S LEAPING TO ATTACK US!

PKEOW!

BAM!

PAK-A-PAK!

PAK

CRACK!

FIRE! IF HE LANDS HERE-- WE'RE FINISHED!

SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE VOLLEY HAS CEASED--

WHY DID YOU STOP FIRING?? DID YOU GET HIM? WHERE IS HE? SPEAK UP, MAN-- WHERE IS HE?!!

HE GOT AWAY, SIR! HE LEAPED TOO HIGH --GOT OUT OF RANGE TOO FAST!

GENERAL ROSS'LL BE FIT TO BE TIED! HE THINKS THE HULK IS TO BLAME FOR HIS DAUGHTER BEIN' MISSING!

IF HE'S UP THERE SOMEWHERE, WE'LL GET HIM! ALERT EVERY RADAR INSTALLATION IN THE SECTOR!

MY DAUGHTER IS MISSING-- AND THAT GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE IS TIED IN WITH HER DISAPPEAR-ANCE SOMEHOW!

CANCEL ALL LEAVES!! ORDER OUT EVERY AVAILABLE MAN! I-WANT-THE HULK!!!

LOOK, SIR! IT'S MAJOR TALBOT! ONE OF OUR PATROLS FOUND HIM!

BUT, WHERE'S BETTY? I THOUGHT HE WAS SEARCHING FOR HER! WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE IS SHE??

THEY LOOK MIGHTY BEAT-UP, GENERAL--AS THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN IN A SCRAP!

TALBOT!! OVER HERE--ON THE DOUBLE, MAN! MOVE!

SPEAK UP, MAJOR! DID YOU FIND BETTY? HAS THE HULK CAPTURED HER? IT HAD TO BE THE HULK! THERE'S NO ONE ELSE--!

WE DID FIND YOUR DAUGHTER, SIR! AND WE WERE BRINGING HER BACK TO YOU--WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED! DURING THE BATTLE--WE--WE LOST HER AGAIN!

WHAT?!!

IT WASN'T MAJOR TALBOT'S FAULT, GENERAL! HE TRIED EVERYTHING--BUT NOTHING COULD STOP--THE BOOMERANG!

HE WAS LIKE A GUY RIGHT OUT OF A SCIENCE FICTION STORY! HE COULD FLY BY USING SOME KINDA JET-POWERED BOOTS--AND HE TOSSED SMALL METAL DISCS LIKE BULLETS!

HE COULD SLICE A GUN IN TWO WITH A SINGLE DISC--LIKE MAGIC!

YOU MEAN TO SAY ONE MAN WAS ABLE TO TAKE MY DAUGHTER FROM YOU --AND FROM YOUR ENTIRE PATROL?!!

I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR ANGER, SIR--BUT THIS WAS NO ORDINARY MAN! HE WAS AMAZINGLY WELL-ARMED--AND PREPARED!

BULLETS WERE USELESS AGAINST HIM--AND HE HAD MORE WEAPONS THAN YOU COULD SHAKE A NON-COM AT!

SHUT UP, JONES! I'M TALKING TO THE MAJOR!

TALBOT--I'M HOLDING YOU PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DAUGHTER'S SAFETY! IS THAT CLEAR, MISTER?!

IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN, GENERAL--I LOVE HER--AS MUCH AS YOU DO!! DO YOU THINK I WANTED IT THIS WAY?!!

I'D GIVE MY LIFE TO BRING HER BACK! I SWEAR IT!

GENERAL, THE ONLY ONE WHO'D HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST BOOMERANG IS--THE HULK! BUT, AS LONG AS YOU HUNT HIM, AND HOUND HIM THE WAY YOU DO--

THE HULK! HE'D NEVER HELP US NOW! NOT AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED--!

FORGET THE HULK! I'LL TEND TO HIM LATER! RIGHT NOW IT'S BOOMERANG I'M AFTER--WHO-EVER HE IS!

BUT, GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS IS NOT THE ONLY ONE CONCERNED WITH THE MAN CALLED BOOMERANG! IN A HIDDEN OBSERVATION ROOM, THREE HOODED FIGURES WATCH AN ELECTRONIC VISO-SCREEN WITH INTENSE INTEREST--!

OBSERVE, NUMBER 7! OUR EXTRAORDINARY EMISSARY HAS SUCCEEDED IN THE FIRST PART OF HIS MISSION!

YES, HE HAS CAPTURED THE DAUGHTER OF GENERAL ROSS, AS PLANNED!

AND NOW, WE MUST SEE WHETHER THE GENERAL CAN BE COERCED INTO GIVING UP AMERICA'S MIGHTY ORION MISSILE!

BUT, HOW DO WE KNOW **BOOMERANG** CAN BE **TRUSTED?** NOW, WITH THE GIRL HIS PRISONER, IT IS **HE** WHO HOLDS ALL THE TRUMP CARDS!

YOU FORGET ONE THING, NUMBER FIVE! **NO ONE** WOULD DARE TO DOUBLE-CROSS THE **SECRET EMPIRE!** EVEN ONE SUCH AS **BOOMERANG** KNOWS THAT OUR DEADLY **POWER** BLANKETS THE ENTIRE GLOBE!

AND, ONCE THE DREADED **ORION MISSILE** IS OURS, WE NEED FEAR NO ARMY ON **EARTH!**

BUT, WE MUST NOT BE TOO **COMPLACENT!** LET US CONTACT **BOOMERANG** IMMEDIATELY!

I SHALL DO SO AT ONCE! I'LL ORDER THE **HELICOPTER** TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT TO MEET HIM!

SOON, WE OF THE **SECRET EMPIRE** SHALL COME OUT INTO THE **OPEN** AT LAST--FOR **NONE** WILL DARE TO OPPOSE US!

AND NOW, BE SILENT WHILE I PRESS THE **SCRAMBLE BUTTON** SO OUR CALL CANNOT BE TRACED!

BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE HOODED FIGURE'S FINGER TOUCH THE FATEFUL STUD, WHEN--

ARHHHHH--!

SHOO-SH!

A JET OF **GAS!** SOME-ONE **BOOBY-TRAPPED** THE SENDING SET!

NUMBER FIVE IS **FINISHED!** THE END CAME **INSTANTANEOUSLY!** BUT **WHY?** WHO WOULD **DO** IT?

IT MUST BE **NUMBER NINE!** HE'S BEEN HUNGRY FOR **POWER** ALL THESE MONTHS!

HE'S OFTEN SWORN THAT **HE** SHALL ONE DAY LEAD US!

YOU MEAN--THAT **ALL** OF US WHO STAND BEWEEN **NUMBER NINE** AND LEADERSHIP OF THE **SECRET EMPIRE** ARE LIABLE TO MEET THE SAME FATE AS **NUMBER FIVE?!**

EXACTLY! BUT, WITHOUT **PROOF** WE CAN DO NOTHING!

WE MUST JUST REMAIN ON GUARD--AND NEVER TURN OUR BACKS ON **NUMBER NINE!**

IT'S STILL ONLY **HIM** AGAINST THE REMAINING SEVEN OF US! HE **CANNOT** WIN!

AND NOW, IT'S TIME FOR US TO JOIN ONE OF THE MOST STARTLINGLY SENSATIONAL NEW CHARACTERS IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN SUPER-LORE--THE BOMBASTIC **BOOMERANG,** HIMSELF--!

NO HARD FEELINGS, LADY! THIS IS JUST A **JOB** TO ME! THERE'S NOTHING PERSONAL ABOUT IT, I ASSURE YOU!

YOU WON'T BE SO SMUG AND CONFIDENT AFTER MY **FATHER** CATCHES UP WITH YOU!

GENERAL ROSS WILL NEVER **REST** TILL YOU'VE BEEN BROUGHT TO BAY!

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED, A *NEW* FIGURE APPEARS ON THE HORIZON--PERHAPS THE MOST MENACING, MOST SPINE-CHILLING FIGURE OF ALL TIME--!

THE *HULK!!!*

THOOM!

THOOM!

HELP!! HELP ME--PLEASE, HULK--*PLEASE*--!!

THAT *VOICE!!* I *KNOW* IT! HULK MUST *HELP!*

GOT TO PUT ON MORE *SPEED*--GET OUT OF RANGE BEFORE HE CAN COME *AFTER* ME!

AS ALL GOOD HULKOPHILES KNOW, THE INCREDIBLE ONE CANNOT ACTUALLY *FLY*, BUT RATHER TRAVELS THRU THE AIR BY A SERIES OF TREMENDOUS *LEAPS!*

THOOM!

THEREFORE, HE MUST WAIT UNTIL HE *LANDS* BEFORE HE CAN TAKE TO THE AIR AGAIN, TO ATTEMPT *PURSUIT*--!

YET, ALTHOUGH THE GREEN BEHEMOTH REACHES HIS PREY LIKE A CANNONADING PROJECTILE, HE CANNOT DART AND WEAVE AND MANEUVER THE WAY *BOOMERANG* CAN!

YOU'RE *FAST*, BIG GUY--BUT YOU HAVEN'T A *CHANCE*--BECAUSE YOU CAN'T CHANGE DIRECTION!

HULK WILL GET YOU!! WAIT AND *SEE!*

THEN, AS THE LONG, DESPERATE, SEEMINGLY UNENDING MINUTES FLY BY--

IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T KEEP IT UP *FOREVER!* AND HE DOESN'T GET *TIRED*--!

THOOM!

HE'S AS FAST *NOW* AS WHEN HE STARTED!

CAN'T KEEP IT UP ANY LONGER WITHOUT ENDANGERING *YOU*, LADY! AND YOU'RE TOO *VALUABLE* TO ME!

SO I'LL LEAVE YOU *HERE*, WHILE I TACKLE HIM ON FOOT! I'VE STILL GOT THE WEAPONS TO *BEAT* 'IM!

DON'T *TRY* IT! HE'LL *KILL* YOU!

NO ONE CAN STAND UP TO THE *HULK!*

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT I ASSURE YOU IT'S *WASTED* ON ME!

MY LITTLE *MAGNETIC DISCS* MAKE ME THE MASTER OF *ANY* MAN--OR ANY GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER!

BUT, DON'T TAKE *MY* WORD FOR IT-- YOU'VE GOT A RINGSIDE SEAT-- JUST *WATCH!*

SNIK!

BY MAGNETIZING MY SMALL ROUND DISCS *TOGETHER*, I GET A LARGE, SUPREMELY *POTENT* WEAPON!

MISTER, YOU'RE ABOUT TO RECEIVE THE MOST POWERFUL, LONG RANGE *KARATE CHOP* OF ALL TIME--!

NOTHING STOPS THE *HULK!*

YOU COME ON REAL STRONG--BUT YOUR *REPARTEE* LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED!

THERE'S THE *FIRST* ONE--AND IF *THAT* DOESN'T STOP YOU, I'VE GOT LOTS *MORE!*

UHHRRRRR!

WOK!

NOW WATCH *THIS*--IT'S GONNA BE REAL *CUTE!*

THUP!

PONG!

STILL, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN *ANYTHING* YET--!

WAIT'LL THE MAGNETIC PULL OF BOTH DISCS BRING THEM *TOWARDS* EACH OTHER--

AHHH! *SEE* WHAT I MEAN?

LEGS-- GOING UP TO CHEST --CAN'T *STAND*--!

WHUNK!

AND NOW, WHILE YOU'RE CONTEMPLATING THE FOLLY OF A MISSPENT LIFE, I'LL UNLEASH MY *GREATEST* WEAPON-- THE ONE FOR WHICH I *NAMED* MYSELF--!

SIMPLE, *BOOMERANG!* *THAT* CAN'T HURT *HULK!*

BITE YOUR TONGUE, SON!

THIS LITTLE GADGET CAN DO EVERYTHING BUT *TALK*-- AND I'M WORKING ON *THAT*, TOO!

ALL I NEED DO IS ADJUST THE *DIAL* FOR MAXIMUM *ELECTRICAL INTENSITY*-- LIKE SO!

FTTTIK!

AND NOW, FOR WANT OF A BETTER EPITAPH--GOODBYE, LITTLE SHEBA!

OH, YOU REMOVED THE DISCS, EH? TOO BAD YOU'RE *TOO LATE!*

NOTHING CAN HOLD *HULK!*

RRAKK!

BULLSEYE!!

WHEN YOU WAKE UP, DON'T BOTHER *LOOKING* FOR ME--BECAUSE I'LL BE *GONE!* BUT I'LL DROP YOU A *CARD* EVERY NOW AND THEN!

SSSSSSSSS

FLAP!

WHAT'S THE *MATTER* WITH YOU? HAVEN'T YOU THE SENSE TO *FALL DOWN* WHEN YOU'VE BEEN PELTED BY ENOUGH *ELECTRICAL VOLTAGE* TO STOP A HERD OF *ELEPHANTS?!!*

NOTHING-- STOPS-- *HULK--!*

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK HE *MEANS* IT!

WELL, NO POINT IN FIGHTING *HIM* ANY LONGER! IT'S LIKE TRYING TO HOLD BACK AN *EARTHQUAKE!*

AT LEAST I SLOWED HIM DOWN ENOUGH TO GIVE US A FRESH *START!*

NO! DON'T *DO* IT! HE'LL *NEVER* STOP CHASING YOU! *LEAVE ME* --IT'S YOUR ONLY *HOPE!*

NICE OF YOU TO *WORRY* ABOUT ME THAT WAY-- BUT I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES, LADY!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE *HULK!* THIS IS *LAST CHANCE!!* PUT DOWN GIRL!

HE CAUGHT *UP* TO ME-- IN JUST A FEW SECONDS!

HE'S *RIGHT!* I *CAN'T* ESCAPE HIM! BUT, IF I GIVE UP NOW --I'LL HAVE LOST *EVERYTHING!*

WHOOSH!

CAN RICK JONES BE *RIGHT?* CAN THE HULK REALLY *BE* BRUCE BANNER-- THE MAN I LOVE-- TRYING TO *SAVE* ME--?

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, A LONE SPOTTER PLANE VIEWS THE STARTLING SCENE...

EARLY CHARLIE TO BASE COMMAND! HAVE SIGHTED OBJECTIVES A AND B!

PRESENT POSITION IS AS FOLLOWS--

GENERAL! ONE OF OUR PLANES HAS SPOTTED BOTH THE HULK AND BOOMERANG --AND YOUR DAUGHTER IS WITH THEM!

WELL!?? DON'T JUST SIT THERE, SOLDIER! LET'S HAVE THE EXACT LOCATION!

TALBOT! TELL OUR STRIKE FORCE WE MOVE OUT IN THIRTY SECONDS!

YES SIR! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE! BOOMERANG WON'T ESCAPE ME AGAIN!

YOU'RE BLAMED RIGHT HE WON'T! BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT GOING!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR? BETTY HAS BEEN LOCATED! SHE MAY BE IN DANGER! YOU CAN'T KEEP ME FROM HER NOW!

AT EASE, MAJOR! I'M STILL IN COMMAND HERE!

WHEN OUR STRIKE FORCE PULLS OUT, MISTER, WE'LL BE LEAVING THE ORION MISSILE VIRTUALLY UNGUARDED! AND YOU'RE THE SECURITY OFFICER HERE!

YOU'LL BE NEEDED TO RIDE HERD ON THAT MISSILE-- AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO!

I WANT SENTRIES AT THEIR STATIONS AROUND THE CLOCK! YOU'RE TO MAINTAIN A 24-HOUR ALERT UNTIL I RETURN! AND THAT'S AN ORDER, MAJOR!

BUT--THERE'S BETTY, GENERAL! WHAT ABOUT HER?!!

IF ALL MY MEN AND ARMOR CAN'T RETURN HER TO US--I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO! CARRY ON, MAJOR!

RRRRRRR

HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE! IT IS MY DUTY TO COMMAND THE GUARD AT THE MISSILE SITE!

WELL, MEBBE YOU'VE GOTTA STAY HERE AND FOLLOW ORDERS, MAJOR--

BUT--IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO BETTY--!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JONES?

I MEAN THAT I'M A CIVILIAN-- FOR NOW, ANYWAY!

--AND US CIVILIANS DON'T HAVETA STAY BEHIND TO GUARD ANYTHING-- LEASTWAYS, NOT WHEN THERE'S A CHANCE OF CATCHIN' UP WITH THE HULK AGAIN!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GETTING INTO--BUT EVEN THE HULK WON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST ALL THIS MILITARY MUSCLE IF THEY CATCH UP WITH 'IM!

AND, IF HE'S GONNA BE NEEDIN' A FRIEND, THEN RICK JONES WANTS TO BE THERE!

MEANWHILE, AS THE HIGHLY-MOBILE TASK FORCE SPEEDS TO THE AREA--

LET GIRL GO! LET GIRL GO!

OKAY, GREEN SKIN! I'M BEGINNIN' TO GET THE MESSAGE!

IT'S NO USE! THERE'S NO ESCAPING HIM! I'VE GOT TO RELINQUISH THE GIRL--WHILE I STILL CAN!

BUT, I'VE GOTTA DO IT IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE WON'T FOLLOW ME!

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, LADY! I'M GONNA LET GO OF YOU--BUT YOU'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH!

HERE, MUSCLEBOUND! DON'T SAY I NEVER GAVE YOU ANYTHING! CATCH!

THERE! THAT'LL SLOW HIM UP LONG ENOUGH FOR ME!

OHHHH--!

AND THERE'S THE HELICOPTER OF THE SECRET EMPIRE--RIGHT ON TIME, AS USUAL!

I JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT THE HULK WON'T WANNA LEAVE THE GIRL, SO HE WON'T FOLLOW THE SHIP!

HE'S ESCAPING! HULK DOESN'T CARE! HULK HAS GIRL! NOBODY BEATS THE HULK!

HIS ARMS--SO HUGE--AND BRUTAL --BUT YET, SO STRANGELY, GENTLE--!

BOOMERANG! YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT THE PRECISE MOMENT!

BUT--THE GIRL! WHERE IS THE GIRL??

I HAD NO CHOICE! I HAD TO TRADE HER --FOR OUR LIVES!

MY BRAIN IS WHIRLING! HAVE I BEEN SAVED? OR, HAVE I MERELY EXCHANGED ONE DANGER--FOR A FAR GREATER ONE?

PLANE GOES--!

HULK BEAT BOOMERANG! HULK BEATS EVERYTHING! NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK!

I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD! HOW COULD I THINK THAT BESTIAL GIANT IS REALLY BRUCE BANNER?

AND THEN, THE MIGHTY BEHEMOTH LOOKS DOWN AT THE FRAGILE GIRL BESIDE HIM--AS SHE DESPERATELY STUDIES HIS UNBLINKING EYES--TRYING TO FIND THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF THE MAN SHE LOVES BEHIND THEIR COLD, HARD, MERCILESS STARE--!

NEXT ISSUE:

HULKINUED NEXT ISH!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

TALES TO ASTONISH

83 SEPT

12¢

"LESS THAN MONSTER MORE THAN MAN!"

THOOM!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"LESS THAN MONSTER, MORE THAN MAN!"

CAPTURED BY THE ASTOUNDING POWER OF ***BOOMERANG,*** BETTY ROSS IS RESCUED FROM HIM BY THE STRONGEST MORTAL TO TROD THE FACE OF THE EARTH! BUT, AS SHE GAZES UP AT THE PONDEROUS, GREEN-SKINNED FIGURE BEFORE HER, SHE WONDERS...

HAVE I BEEN SAVED FROM THE BRUTAL ***BOOMERANG***...ONLY TO FACE A FAR MORE ***DESPERATE*** DANGER... AT THE HANDS OF... THE ***HULK?***

Script: Smilin' STAN LEE
Layouts: Jolly JACK KIRBY
Art: Wild BILL EVERETT
Lettering: Whammy SAMMY ROSEN
Applause: Honest IRVING FORBUSH

HE'S TURNING... FACING ME!

THE WAY HE'S STARING... WITH THOSE COLD, UNBLINKING EYES... WHAT.. WHAT IS HE *THINKING?*

I MUSTN'T PANIC... MUSTN'T SCREAM.. IT MIGHT MAKE HIM RUN *AMOK!*

HE TURNED *AWAY* FROM ME! BUT, WHAT..?

HE MUST BE GOING *BERSERK!* HE'S TEARING AT THE HILLSIDE... WITH HIS *BARE HANDS*... LIKE SOME MONSTROUS LIVING *BULLDOZER!*

HE'S ACTUALLY MAKING A *HOLE* IN THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF... SINGLE-HANDED!! HE'S DIGGING OUT A *CAVE!*

NOW HE'S COMING *TOWARDS* ME.. HE..HE'S *LIFTING ME*... CARRYING ME INTO THE CAVE...

IT'S *FANTASTIC!* HE DID IT TO MAKE ME MORE *COMFORTABLE*.. TO GET ME OUT OF THE *RAIN!*

BUT, IF YOU REALLY *DON'T* MEAN ME ANY HARM... IF YOU *DO* WANT TO HELP ME.. PLEASE.. TAKE ME TO MY FATHER!

TAKE YOU... TO FATHER!

NO! HE'S *GENERAL!* *HATES* HULK! TRIED TO *KILL* HULK!!

HE'S *RIGHT!* DAD HAS NEVER GIVEN HIM A CHANCE!

SLOWLY, HESITATINGLY, THE PUZZLED GIRL APPROACHES THE MASSIVE FIGURE BEFORE HER---HER EYES BURNING INTO HIS--- PROBING DESPERATELY FOR SOME SIGN OF EMOTION ---SOME HINT OF FEELING---OF RECOGNITION---

EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE--- SOMETIMES I ALMOST FEEL THAT YOU REALLY *ARE*... BRUCE BANNER!

BUT, WHAT COULD HAVE *CHANGED* YOU?? WHAT COULD HAVE TRANFORMED YOU INTO---THE *HULK*??

HE SEEMS TO BE STRUGGLING *WITHIN* HIMSELF---GROPING FOR THE WORDS--- STRIVING TO CLEAR HIS CLOUDED THOUGHTS--!

IF THE MAN I LOVE REALLY *IS* BEHIND THAT GROTESQUE FACE--DOES THIS MEAN THAT I'VE *LOST* HIM---FOREVER?

BUT, WHAT OF THE BOMBASTIC *BOOMERANG?* HAVING SURRENDERED BETTY TO THE INCREDIBLE *HULK*, WE NOW FIND HIM RIDING OUT THE STORM WITHIN A *SECRET EMPIRE* HELICOPTER---

YOU *FAILED* US, BOOMERANG...FOR THE FIRST TIME! YOU LET THE GIRL *ESCAPE* FROM YOU!

ESCAPE? THE *HULK* GOT HER AWAY FROM ME! *NOBODY* CAN STOP *HIM!*

THE *SECRET EMPIRE* IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH CAREFULLY FRAMED *EXCUSES!* YOU BUNGLED THE JOB, BOOMERANG!

LOOK, YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN THE *GIRL!* IT'S HER FATHER'S *ORION MISSILE* YOU'RE AFTER... RIGHT?

WELL, THERE'S *STILL* A CHANCE OF ME GETTING IT!

NUMBER ONE WILL NOT BE IMPRESSED BY *PROMISES!* NOBODY GETS A SECOND CHANCE!

MAYBE, BUT DON'T *FORGET* YOURSELF, MISTER! I'M NOT NOBODY---I'M THE *BOOMERANG!*

I'M NOT AFRAID OF *YOU*--- OR *NUMBER ONE*--- OR--

HOLD IT! LISTEN TO THE RADIO--!

BULLETIN! ONE OF THE LARGEST TASK FORCES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN AREA HAS JUST BEEN MARSHALLED BY *GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS*... FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRACKING DOWN THE MARAUDING *HULK*, WHO HAS CAPTURED THE GENERAL'S *DAUGHTER*, BETTY...

THIS MEANS THE BALL GAME ISN'T *OVER* YET!

WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO?*

I'M GOIN' AFTER THE *MISSILE* AGAIN--AS PLANNED!

BOOMERANG DOESN'T MAKE A *HABIT* OF FAILING!

THEN, BEFORE THE HOODED MEN IN THE WHIRLYBIRD CAN UTTER ANOTHER SOUND, OR MAKE ANOTHER MOVE...

IF THUNDERBOLT ROSS HAS TAKEN THE MAIN FORCE ON A HUNT FOR THE *HULK*, IT MAKES *MY* JOB EASIER THAN EVER!

IT MEANS THAT HE'LL ONLY HAVE A *SKELETON CREW* GUARDING THE *ORION MISSILE*... AND THAT GIVES ME THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR!

THWIK!

THE COMPACT *GUIDANCE SYSTEM*, BUILT INTO MY COSTUME'S CHEST DEVICE, WILL ZERO ME IN ON MY DESTINATION WITHIN *MINUTES!*

I THOUGHT I COULD GET THE MISSILE BY MAKING A *HOSTAGE* OF THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER... BUT *THIS* WAY WILL BE FAR SIMPLER!

NO MERE *SKELETON FORCE* CAN HOPE TO STAND UP TO THE POWER OF *BOOMERANG!*

AND, WHAT OF THUNDERBOLT ROSS'S HARD-HITTING *TASK FORCE?* LET'S CATCH UP WITH IT AS IT SPEEDS ACROSS THE GREAT DESERT, HEADING FOR THE AREA WHERE THE *HULK* HAS LAST BEEN SIGHTED...

HE WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME *THIS* TIME! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH *MUSCLE* NOW TO WIPE A *HUNDRED* HULKS OFF THE FACE OF THE MAP!

WE'LL *FIND* HIM THIS TIME! WE'LL COMB EVERY *INCH* OF THIS GROUND... WE WON'T LEAVE A GRAIN OF SAND UNTOUCHED... IF TAKES A *LIFETIME*... *I'LL FIND HIM!*

THEN, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS...

ATTENTION, ALL UNITS! WE'VE REACHED *AREA A!*

TARGET *H* MAY BE *ANYWHERE* IN THIS AREA! DESPATCH SEARCHING PARTIES AND AWAIT FURTHER ORDERS!

STRONG AS HE IS, I WOULDN'T WANNA BE IN THE *HULK'S* SHOES NOW!

NOT WITH *THUNDERBOLT ROSS* OUT TO GET HIM!

BUT, THE MIGHTY MUSCLED POWERHOUSE KNOWS NOTHING OF THE ARMORED TASK FORCE... AND, IF HE *DID*, IT'S DOUBTFUL THAT HE'D CARE...!

RAIN STOP! HUNGRY! BUILD FIRE... GET FOOD!

IT'S STRANGE! I FIND I'M NOT *AFRAID* OF HIM ANY LONGER!

AS POWERFUL, AND AS UNPREDICTABLE AS HE IS... I CAN'T HELP FEELING HE'S *NOT* TRULY EVIL!

WHEREVER HE'S SEEN ... WHEREVER HE APPEARS .. MEN *HUNT* HIM ... AND *HOUND* HIM ... AS THOUGH HE'S SOME SAVAGE, WILD BEAST OF PREY!

PERHAPS, IF HE WERE JUST GIVEN A *CHANCE* ... IF EVEN *ONE* PERSON SHOWED SOME *FAITH* ... SOME *TRUST* IN HIM ...

.. PERHAPS THINGS WOULD BE *DIFFERENT!*

THOSE TWO LARGE CHUNKS OF *FLINT ROCK* HE PICKED UP ... WHAT'S HE GOING TO *DO* .. ?

STAY BACK! NEED FIRE! *HULK MAKE FIRE!*

RTOOM!

HE--HE *SMASHED* THEM TOGETHER ... WITH SUCH INDESCRIBABLE *FORCE* --- THAT THE *FRICTION ALONE* CAUSED THE WOOD PILE TO BURST INTO FLAME!

WITH STRENGTH SUCH AS *HIS*, IS THERE *ANYTHING* HE CAN'T DO ?

GIRL *WAIT!* HULK COMES *BACK!*

EASIER TO SEE *FOOD* FROM HIGH UP *HERE!*

THOOM!

BUT, NO SOONER HAS THE GREEN-SKINNED BEHEMOTH TAKEN TO THE AIR, WHEN ---

MEN *SHOOT* AT HULK!

PEOWWW!

PWEEEEEEE

PAM!

KRAK!

SPARROW PATROL! SPARROW PATROL! MAYDAY! MAYDAY! HULK SIGHTED! HULK SIGHTED!

BRING UP *HEAVY STUFF* ... ON THE *DOUBLE!*

BRRAAK!

KFOW!

BKOW!

PAM!

WHILE, BACK AT THE BASE, *MAJOR GLEN TALBOT*, IN CHARGE OF THE SMALL, BUT HEAVILY-ARMED UNIT ASSIGNED TO GUARD THE VITAL *ORION MISSILE*, GOES ABOUT HIS DUTIES WITH GLUM RESIGNATION ...

EVERY AVAILABLE MAN IS OUT HUNTING FOR THE *HULK* ... AND FOR *BETTY ROSS* --- THE GIRL I *LOVE!*

.. WHILE I'M STUCK *HERE* ... ON ROUTINE GUARD DETAIL ... PLAYING NURSEMAID TO THAT BLASTED *MISSILE!*

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME *WORD* ABOUT BETTY!

I'M A *SOLDIER*... SO I MUST OBEY ORDERS..EVEN THOUGH EVERY FIBRE OF MY BEING YEARNS TO BE OUT THERE... SEARCHING FOR BETTY!

BUT, I'VE GOT TO PUT HER OUT OF MY MIND...SOMEHOW! MY MAIN JOB RIGHT NOW IS PROTECTING THE *MISSILE!*

AND THEN...LIKE A THUNDERCLAP... *BOOMERANG STRIKES..!*

MAJOR!! WHAT'S *THAT?!!*

A SPINNING *DISC*... HEADING FOR THE PROPELLANT FLUID!! *LOOK OUT!!*

DANGER

MISSILE PROPELLANT

TTAK!

CRASH!

IF IT BREAKS THAT TANK, IT'LL EXPLODE INTO...

TOO LATE!! IT *DID* IT!

UNHHH!! MY *LEG..!*

WHOOM!

YOU WERE HIT BY *SHRAPNEL!* I'LL SEND FOR THE *MEDIC*, SIR!

NEGATIVE! NEVER MIND *ME!* GET THAT *MISSILE* OUT OF HERE! ON THE DOUBLE... BEFORE SHE *BLOWS!!*

MOVE, MAN! OUR JOB IS TO GUARD THAT MISSILE...WITH OUR *LIVES* IF NECESSARY!

THUS, A FEW FRENZIED SECONDS LATER...

HE GAVE THE ONLY ORDER HE *COULD*... TO MOVE THE MISSILE!

TOO BAD HE DIDN'T SUSPECT THAT HE'S PLAYING RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF... *BOOMERANG!*

THANKS FOR THE *HELP*, SOLDIER BOYS! NOW THAT THE ORION ROCKET IS IN THE OPEN, *I'LL* TAKE OVER FROM HERE ON!

IT'S THE *BOOMERANG!!* HE'S GONNA TACKLE US *SINGLE-HANDED!*

B

BUT, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH MAJOR TALBOT HAS TROUBLE ENOUGH WITHOUT *US* BARGING IN ON HIM, SO LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A HIGH-LEVEL CABINET MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF THE *SECRET EMPIRE*...

BOOMERANG HAS *FAILED* US! HE MUST PAY THE MANDATORY *PENALTY*... SWIFTLY AND SURELY HE MUST BE PUT TO *DEATH!*

NO!! I PROTEST!!

WHAT?!! YOU DARE QUESTION *MY DECISION*, NUMBER NINE?

YES! EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE REACHED THE RANK OF *NUMBER TWO*, I SAY YOU'RE *WRONG!*

BOOMERANG HAS HIS OWN STRANGE POWERS! WE CANNOT AFFORD TO *LOSE* SUCH AN ALLY! HE MAY *STILL* GET THE MISSILE FOR US!

SILENCE! EVER SINCE THE MURDER OF *NUMBER FIVE* LAST MONTH, YOU'VE BEEN UNDER SUSPICION! NOW *THIS* IS THE LAST STRAW!

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT YOU'LL LET NOTHING STAND IN YOUR WAY TO RISE TO *NUMBER ONE* IN THE SECRET EMPIRE!

BUT, YOU'LL *NEVER* GET THE CHANCE! I ACCUSE YOU OF *HIGH TREASON*, BY THE POWER VESTED WITHIN THESE RITUALISTIC ROBES!

EVEN *NUMBER ONE* HIMSELF WILL BREATHE EASIER ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN...ELIMINATED!

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE...

YOU COMPLACENT *FOOLS!* DID YOU THINK I'D BE *UNPREPARED* FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY?

HERE'S WHERE I SHORTEN MY CLIMB TO THE POSITION OF *NUMBER ONE* BY MEANS OF A SINGLE MOVE..!

BY THE TIME YOU'VE RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THAT *STUN GRENADE*, THE SECRET EMPIRE WILL BE UNDER *MY* CONTROL, AS I'VE *PLANNED* IT TO BE ALL ALONG!

THOOSH!

IN THEIR BLIND CONFIDENCE, THEY NEVER THOUGHT TO WEAR PROTECTIVE *ARMOR* BENEATH THEIR ROBES... AS *I* DID!

AND NOW... ONLY *NUMBER ONE* STANDS BETWEEN ME ...AND THE *GOAL* WHICH NOTHING MUST STOP ME FROM ATTAINING!

TIME ENOUGH TO RETURN TO *NUMBER NINE* AND HIS STRANGE SECRET *NEXT* ISH! IN THE MEANTIME, BETCHA THOUGHT WE FORGOT WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE *STAR* OF OUR SALUTORY LITTLE SAGA! WELL, WE *DIDN'T*... SEE..?

I'VE *GOT* YOU NOW, HULK! EVEN *YOU* CAN'T OVERCOME AN ENTIRE *TASK FORCE!*

WHERE'S MY *DAUGHTER?* I'M ORDERING YOU TO *RETURN* HER TO ME... OR WE'LL HIT YOU WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE *GOT!*

NOBODY ORDERS *HULK!*

LOOK OUT! HE'S NOT YIELDING! HE'S GETTING READY TO *CHARGE!!*

AND, CHARGE HE *DOES*... AS ONLY THE INCREDIBLE HULK *CAN*..!

SOLDIERS DON'T SCARE HULK! BULLETS CAN'T HURT HULK!

HE'S HEADING FOR THE *GENERAL!* LET 'IM *HAVE* IT!

THOOM

NO! HOLD YOUR FIRE! LET *ME* HANDLE HIM!

I'D STAND UP TO A *HUNDRED* LIKE YOU FOR THE SAKE OF MY DAUGHTER!

GRAACK!

KILLING ME WILL ONLY SEAL YOUR *OWN* FATE! I ORDER YOU TO *SURRENDER*... WHILE YOU *CAN!*

IF HE MAKES ANOTHER MOVE... *FIRE!*

HE'S JUST *STANDING* THERE NOW! DID THE GENERAL *GET* TO HIM, OR..?

WAIT! THE HULK ISN'T A *KILLER!* HE'S JUST *CONFUSED!* LET *ME* TALK TO HIM.. HE'LL LISTEN TO *ME!*

IT'S THE KID.. *RICK JONES!*

STAY BACK! NOBODY TRICKS HULK! *NOBODY* IS FRIEND!

LOOK OUT, BOY! YOU WON'T HAVE A *CHANCE!* YOU CAN'T REASON WITH *HIM!*

I *CAN!* HE *KNOWS* ME! HE'LL REMEMBER... HE'S *GOT* TO REMEMBER!!

IT'S *ME,* HULK...IT'S *RICK!*

YOU'RE NOT A KILLER, HULK! **BRUCE BANNER** ISN'T A KILLER! YOU'VE GOT TO **THINK**... TRY TO REMEMBER...

BRUCE BANNER! THAT NAME... ALWAYS IN MY BRAIN!! I **HATE** IT! **HATE BRUCE BANNER!!**

GOOD! HE'S TURNING AWAY FROM THE GENERAL..!

BANNER IS **WEAK!!** BANNER IS **AFRAID!!** HULK FEARS **NOTHING!** HULK CAN DO **ANYTHING!!**

KRRASH!

HE--HE HURLED THAT JEEP AGAINST THE HILLSIDE LIKE A **TOY!!**

LOOK! HE WHEELED AROUND... GRABBED THE GENERAL!

IT'S **HOPELESS!** WE'LL **NEVER** BE ABLE TO CONTROL HIM! **FIRE!!** NEVER MIND ABOUT **ME**... THE HULK MUST BE **STOPPED!**

NO! YOU'LL RUIN EVERY-THING! YOU DON'T **UNDER-STAND!**

YOU WANTED YOUR DAUGHTER!! HE'S **TAKING** YOU TO HER! DON'T YOU **SEE??**

DON'T SHOOT! THE KID MAY BE **RIGHT!** WE'LL FOLLOW THEM FROM THE GROUND!

THEN, AFTER A DOZEN MIGHTY, SPACE-DEVOURING **LEAPS**...

IT'S THE **HULK!** HE'S RETURNING!! AND HE'S BRINGING **DAD**... AND **RICK JONES!**

THOOM!

OH, DAD... **DAD!** HE **DID** BRING YOU BACK TO ME... HE **DID!** I--I WAS AFRAID I'D NEVER SEE YOU ALIVE AGAIN!

DON'T WORRY, MY DARLING! MY MEN WILL BE HERE WITHIN **MINUTES!!** HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HARM YOU **NOW!** THIS WILL BE THE **END** OF THE HULK!

NO, DAD... YOU'RE *WRONG!* IT ISN'T *HE* WHO'S THE MENACE! THE HULK *SAVED* ME.. FROM THAT HORRIBLE *BOOMERANG!*

SAVED YOU? YOU MEAN... YOU WEREN'T *FRIGHTENED* OF THAT GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER?

NO! I'M CONVINCED NOW THAT RICK IS *RIGHT!* THE HULK IS REALLY *BRUCE BANNER*... HE'S THE MAN I *LOVE!*

COME BACK! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! HE *CAN'T* BE BANNER! LOOK AT HIM... JUST *LOOK* AT HIM!

BUT, SOMETHING *HAPPENED*... TO CHANGE HIM! I CAN'T DESERT HIM NOW! NOT WHEN HE *NEEDS* ME!

BUT THEN, HIS BESTIAL BRAIN CONFUSED BY ALL THE TALK AND STRANGE COMMOTION, THE *HULK* CRIES OUT:..

HULK NEEDS *NOBODY!!* HULK CAN DO *ANYTHING!*

LOOK OUT! THERE'S NO TELLING *WHAT* HE'LL DO!

HE'S GETTING READY TO *LEAP..!*

HULK.. WAIT! DON'T GO OFF *WITHOUT* ME AGAIN! I WANNA *HELP* YOU!!

NO USE! HE'S TOO *ANGRY*... MOVING TOO *FAST!* HE DOESN'T EVEN *HEAR* ME!

THOOM!

THE STRONGEST... MOST *DANGEROUS* BEING ON EARTH... BUT MY DAUGHTER TELLS ME HE *RESCUED* HER... TELLS ME SHE *LOVES* HIM..!

AND YET.. SOMEHOW.. I FIND MYSELF BEGINNING TO *UNDERSTAND..*

COME, MY DEAR! I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE BASE!..

AND *YOU* TOO, JONES! WE'VE GOT A LOT OF *TALKING* TO DO!

YES, SIR! BUT, WHAT ABOUT... *HIM?* HOW DO WE *REACH* HIM AGAIN? AND... WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE *DO??*

BUT, FOR THE AMAZING ANSWER TO RICK JONES' ANGUISHED QUERY, WE MUST WAIT TILL NEXT ISSUE, AS WE SLOWLY TAKE OUR LEAVE OF A SOLITARY, BROODING FIGURE WHO SITS ALONE WITH HIS DARK AND OMINOUS THOUGHTS WHILE THE SHADES OF NIGHT ENVELOP HIM...

NEXT ISH:
THE HULK RUNS AMOK IN THE CITY!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IND.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ 84 OCT

TALES TO ASTONISH

"LIKE A BEAST AT BAY!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"RAMPAGE IN THE CITY!"

THE HULK IS *THRU* WITH HIDING--THRU WITH RUNNING!

NOTHING CAN *HURT* ME! NOTHING CAN *STOP* ME! THE HULK CAN DO *ANYTHING!*

BEGINNING:

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE AWARD-WINNING SERIES THAT DELICATELY POSES THE AGE-OLD QUESTION, "CAN A GREEN-SKINNED INTROVERT, WITH ANTI-SOCIAL TENDENCIES, FIND HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN A MODERN, MATERIALISTIC SOCIETY?"

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED THE ***BEST HULK THRILLER*** EVER PRODUCED BY MORTAL MAN (SINCE LAST ISH, ANYWAY!)

'NUFF SAID!

SCRIPT.....STAN (THE MAN) LEE
ART...ALMOST THE WHOLE BLAMED BULLPEN
LETTERING...ARTIE (SMARTY) SIMEK
THERAPY.....HONEST IRVING FORBUSH

HULK SAVED GIRL! HULK WON'T BE *HATED* ANY MORE!*

GIRL GENTLE --KIND TO HULK! MUST *FIND* HER AGAIN!

*IF YOU MISSED THIS, LAST ISH, DON'T TELL US! YOU KNOW HOW WE WORRY! --SINCERE STAN.

BUT, UPON REACHING THE ARMY *MISSILE BASE*, OUR HAPLESS HERO FINDS--

BASE *DESERTED!* EVERYONE *GONE!*

HULK MUST *FIND!* WON'T BE *ALONE* ANY MORE!

BUT *HOW?* WHERE CAN HULK *LOOK?*

AND THEN, SOME DIM, FORGOTTEN *MEMORY* RETURNS TO HIS CLOUDED BRAIN, AS THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT VAGUELY RECALLS A TIME, MONTHS AGO, WHEN HE WAS BRIEFLY PART OF A *TEAM*-- WHEN HE HAD POWERFUL *FRIENDS* TO TURN TO--

AVENGERS! AVENGERS WILL HELP! HULK MUST *GO* TO THEM!

THE ONCE-BRILLIANT BRAIN OF ATOMIC SCIENTIST *BRUCE BANNER*--HAVING BEEN AFFECTED BY THE MYSTERIOUS *GAMMA RAYS*, SOME YEARS AGO, CAN NOW BARELY REMEMBER THAT THE *HEADQUARTERS* OF THE MIGHTY *AVENGERS* IS LOCATED SOMEWHERE TO THE *EAST*--

THOOM!

--AND SO, WITHOUT A SECOND'S HESITATION, THE INCREDIBLE LEG MUSCLES OF THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL TO WALK THE EARTH, BEGIN TO HURL HIM SKYWARD-- ON A TIRELESS JOURNEY HALF-WAY ACROSS A CONTINENT--!

UNTIL, AT LAST--

THIS IS CITY THE HULK SEARCHES FOR!

THIS IS WHERE I FIND --*AVENGERS!*

BUT, BEFORE THE PLUMMETING TITAN CAN REACH THE GROUND, SHARP-EYED ***RADAR DEFENSE*** TECHNICIANS GO INTO INSTANT ACTION--!

UNIDENTIFIED ***BLIP*** PLUNGING TOWARD MIDTOWN! MUST HAVE APPROACHED FROM ***INLAND!***

LOOKS ***SERIOUS,*** DAN!

IT ***CAN'T*** BE A ***MISSILE!*** AND YET, WE DON'T DARE TAKE A CHANCE!

THROW THAT SWITCH, CORPORAL! IT'S A ***RED ALERT!***

IT-IT SHOULD BE LANDING-- ***NOW!***

AND, TRUE TO THE SHOCKED NONCOM'S PREDICTION, THE LANDING ***DOES*** OCCUR--SHATTERING THE HEAVY SILENCE OF A SLEEPING CITY IN EARLY DAWN...

JOURNEY IS ***OVER!***

NOW TO FIND ***AVENGERS!***

THOOOM!

BUT THEN, EVEN THE ***HULK'S*** SLOW, PONDEROUS MENTALITY PRODUCES AN OBVIOUS ***THOUGHT--***

CAN'T WALK THRU STREETS THIS WAY --NOT ENOUGH CLOTHES--GREEN SKIN--!

PEOPLE ***AFRAID!*** THEY RUN--SCREAM!

HULK HATES ***NOISE--*** WHEN PEOPLE SCREAM --!

NEED ***CLOTHES!*** IN THERE--***COAT!*** HULK MUST ***HAVE*** IT!

BIG MEN'S

X LARGE

MEN'S OVER-SIZE CLOTHING

DOOR ***LOCKED!*** STORE ***CLOSED!*** NO ONE THERE!

HULK CAN'T ***WAIT!*** MUST HAVE COAT!

EASY TO GET! JUST LIFT ***WALL*** OF BUILDING! NOW HULK HAS ***COAT!***

SKRAAAK!

AND THEN, IN THE SHADOWY GLOOM OF A NEARBY ALLEY, THE INCREDIBLE, MIGHTY-MUSCLED BEING DOES WHAT HE CAN TO CONCEAL HIS ACTUAL AWESOME APPEARANCE--!

HULK IS ***DRESSED*** LIKE OTHER MEN!

WILL SEARCH FOR ***AVENGERS*** --WHEN IT GETS LIGHT--!

FINALLY, HALF A DAY LATER, AFTER LONG, LONELY, FRUITLESS HOURS OF WALKING THE ENDLESS CITY STREETS--

BUNDLED UP IN A *RAINCOAT* ON A HOT, SUNNY DAY LIKE THIS!

OH WELL, IT TAKES ALL KINDS!

NO FOOD! HULK CAN'T WALK *FOREVER!* WHERE ARE AVENGERS??

SAY! WAIT A MINUTE! I THOUGHT I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF *GREEN SKIN!*

THAT FALSE ALARM *RADAR ALERT* LAST NIGHT--SOMETHING LANDING FROM THE SKY--!

IT COULD HAVE BEEN --IT-IT *HAS* TO BE--!

THAT'S WHY HE WAS ALL COVERED UP THAT WAY!!

I JUST PASSED-- THE *HULK!*

WITHIN SECONDS, THE ALARM IS GIVEN, AS A FEARFUL METROPOLIS ONCE AGAIN GIVES WAY TO *PANIC* AT THE VERY MENTION OF--THE *HULK!*

EEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEE

WHY THE *RIOT SQUAD?* HOW DO WE KNOW HE'S *HOSTILE?*

WE DON'T! BUT THE *PAPERS* WOULD HAVE OUR HIDES IF WE DIDN'T TAKE EVERY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE!

IF YOU ASK *ME,* THE POOR GUY'S MORE SCARED OF *US* THAN WE ARE OF *HIM!*

POLICE 634

POLICE 678

POLICE 622

AND, EVEN AS THE SQUAD CARS THROW A CORDON OF STEEL AROUND THE AREA--

MUST GET AWAY--FROM NOISE OF *SIRENS!*

NOISE MAKES ME *MAD!* MUSTN'T GET MAD! DON'T WANT TO *FIGHT!*

JUST WANT TO FIND *AVENGERS!*

NOW SHOWING

SKSK!

CLANG!

POLICE EVERY-WHERE! MUST FIND PLACE TO *HIDE!*

DARK, INSIDE THIS DOOR! GOOD PLACE FOR *HULK* TO GO!

WHY DO THEY HOUND ME?? WHY CAN HULK FIND NO *PEACE??*

EMPLOYEES' ENTRANCE

CITY NEWSREEL THEATER

AND THEN, AS THE BROODING BEHEMOTH ENTERS FROM THE STAGE DOOR NEAR THE SCREEN, A TYPICALLY MIRACULOUS MARVEL *COINCIDENCE* OCCURS...

SOMETHING *HAPPENING* IN BACK OF THEATRE!

PEOPLE SHOUTING-- RUNNING-- TOWARD LOBBY--!

STOP HIM! BEFORE HE GETS AWAY!

NEWS OF THE DAY

PRESENTED BY PARAMOUNT

SOMEONE *ELSE* RUNNING--FOR HIS LIFE! WHY DO MEN *HATE* OTHERS-- SO MUCH??

CAN'T STOP HIM! HE'S TOO *STRONG!* HE CHARGING FOR THE *STREET!*

AND THEN, THERE IN THE SHADOWS, WHERE HE STANDS--UNSEEN--UNNOTICED--A GLIMMER OF ***RECOGNITION*** FLICKERS IN THE HULK'S CONFUSED BRAIN--

THAT ***FACE!*** I ***KNOW*** HIM! I HAVE SEEN HIM --SOMEWHERE-- ***FOUGHT*** HIM-- SOMEWHERE! BUT --I HAVE FOUGHT --SO ***MANY***-- HOW CAN I BE ***SURE?!!***

AND, BEFORE THE HULK CAN EVEN HOPE TO REMEMBER--THE EPISODE IS ***ENDED***-- THE STRANGER IS ***GONE!***

BUT, HE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN THE SHARP-WITTED, SUPREMELY INTELLIGENT ***BRUCE BANNER,*** NOW FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO RETAIN A THOUGHT FOR ANY APPRECIABLE LENGTH OF TIME! AND SO--

DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO--WHAT TO DO! POLICE MUST NOT FIND ME!

HULK WILL STAY ***HERE***-- IN DARK-- WHERE IT IS SAFE!

WAIT! ON SCREEN! WHAT IS-- ***THAT?!!***

AND ***THAT,*** AS WE CAN PLAINLY SEE, IS ANOTHER CAPRICIOUS ***COINCIDENCE***--TOO REMOTE TO OCCUR IN ***FICTION***--BUT ALL TOO POSSIBLE IN THIS STARTLING WORLD WE LIVE IN--!

--YOU ARE NOW WITNESSING A FILM JUST RELEASED BY THE PENTAGON! IT WAS TAKEN BY A COMBAT PHOTOGRAPHER, AT THE SCENE OF OUR MOST CLOSELY-GUARDED SOUTHWESTERN MISSILE BASE!

THIS IS THE FIRST STARTLING FILM OF THE MAN CALLED ***BOOMERANG,*** AS HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY ATTEMPTED TO SABOTAGE AMERICA'S VITAL ***ORION MISSILE!***

BOOMERANG! IT WAS ***HIM*** --WHO CAPTURED ***GIRL!****

*THOSE OF YOU WHO READ OUR PAST FEW ISHES CAN SKIP THE NEXT PAGE, AS ITS PRIME PURPOSE IS TO BRING ***NEWER*** MARVELITES UP TO DATE! JUST ANOTHER SUPER-SERVICE FROM YOUR BIG-HEARTED BULLPEN!--- SANCTIMONIUS STAN.

AT FIRST, IT SEEMED THAT **BOOMERANG** WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK THE **CAMERAMAN** HIMSELF--

BUT, HE DISDAINFULLY TURNED AWAY, NOT CARING WHETHER HE WAS PHOTOGRAPHED OR NOT--AS HE FACED THE WOUNDED **MAJOR TALBOT--!**

OBVIOUSLY, THE VALIANT OFFICER AND HIS FEW COURAGEOUS GUARDS WERE NO MATCH FOR THE BOMBASTIC, DISC-THROWING **BOOMERANG--!**

IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT BOOMERANG HAD THE ALMOST-DESERTED BASE AT THE MERCY OF HIS DEADLY, EXPLOSIVE **DISCS!**

BUT THEN, ACTING WITH UNPRECEDENTED DARING, THE DESPERATE MAJOR TALBOT FINGERED THE **DESTRUCT BUTTON** OF THE MIGHTY MISSILE--WARNING **BOOMERANG** THAT HE WOULD BLOW UP THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION, WITH ALL LIVES, RATHER THAN LOSE THE **ORION** ROCKET!

FOR LONG, DRAMATIC SECONDS, THE TWO ANTAGONISTS FACED EACH OTHER, TESTING EACH OTHER'S WILL--WHILE THE FATE OF AMERICA'S MISSILE DEFENSE POSTURE HUNG IN THE BALANCE--! AND THEN--

REALIZING HE HAD BEEN OUT-MANEUVERED BY THE SELF-SACRIFICING SECURITY OFFICER, THE MAN CALLED **BOOMERANG** ROCKETED SKYWARD--SCANT MOMENTS BEFORE **GENERAL THUNDERBOLT ROSS** RETURNED TO BASE WITH THE MAIN BODY OF HIS FORCES--!

THE VERY NEXT DAY, **MAJOR GLEN TALBOT** WAS AWARDED ONE OF OUR NATION'S HIGHEST HONORS FOR HIS HEROIC DEFENSE OF THE ORION MISSILE AGAINST SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE ODDS!

AND THEN, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY, THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION WAS **CLOSED DOWN,** AS GENERAL ROSS'S MILITARY COMMAND TRANSFERRED THE VITAL ORION MISSILE TO **CAPE KENNEDY,** FLORIDA, WHERE IT IS PRESENTLY UNDERGOING THE MOST RIGOROUS TESTS--!

THAT'S WHY BASE WAS EMPTY!

EVERYBODY **GONE...!**

NOTHING FOR HULK TO DO NOW--

--EXCEPT--FIND **AVENGERS!**

NOW

I JUST **REMEMBERED**--

WHAT HAPPENED TO **BOY**--RICK? WHY DOESN'T **HE** FIND HULK?

BUT, AT THE SAME INSTANT THAT THE GREEN TITAN THINKS OF **RICK JONES,** WE SWITCH OUR SCENE TO **CAPE KENNEDY,** WHERE WE NOW FIND--

IT IS NOW RELIABLY REPORTED THAT THE INCREDIBLE **HULK** HAS BEEN DEFINITELY SIGHTED IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY! ONE OF THE LARGEST **DRAGNETS** OF ALL TIME IS PRESENTLY IN FORCE! ALBANY REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS DECLARED A STATE OF **MARTIAL LAW!** STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS!

THE **HULK**--IN **NEW YORK!** HE-HE'LL BE **NEEDING** ME!

TUNING

VOLUME

I'VE GOT TO **GO** TO HIM! IF HE'S FOUND BEFORE I CAN **REACH** HIM, THERE'S NO TELLING **WHAT** MAY HAPPEN!

NO ONE WILL **TRUST** HIM, OR GIVE HIM A CHANCE! THEY'LL THROW EVERYTHING THEY'VE **GOT** AGAINST HIM!

BUT, HOW DO I **GET** THERE? I HAVEN'T THE PRICE OF A **FARE!**

FRANTICALLY, THE YOUTH RACKS HIS BRAIN FOR SOME METHOD OF REACHING THE EMPIRE STATE, AND THEN--SUDDENLY--

OF **COURSE!** I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THIS FIRST THING!

THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE ADVERTISING IN THE PAPER FOR SOMEONE TO **DRIVE THEIR CAR** UP NORTH FOR THEM!

IN FACT, HERE'S ONE **NOW!** I'VE GOT TO CALL HIM RIGHT AWAY!

THEN, LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER--

OKAY, KID--AS LONG AS YOU HAVE A LICENSE TO DRIVE!

DELIVER THE CAR TO THE ADDRESS I GAVE YOU IN NEW YORK, AND REMEMBER--NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO--***DON'T TRY TO OPEN THE TRUNK!***

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T!

WHY IN HECK SHOULD I WANNA OPEN HIS BLAMED ***TRUNK?***

SUNSHINE

ALL I WANNA DO IS REACH THE ***HULK*** BEFORE ANYONE ***ELSE*** CATCHES UP WITH HIM--IF I ***CAN!***

DON'T STOP FOR ***ANYTHING!*** YOU'LL RECEIVE A ***BONUS*** IF YOU GET THERE IN LESS THAN ***48 HOURS!***

SOUNDS TO ***ME*** LIKE THERE'S ***MORE*** TO THIS THAN JUST A SIMPLE ***CAR DELIVERY!*** BUT, I HAVEN'T TIME TO WORRY ABOUT IT ***NOW!***

AND, SPEAKING OF ***WORRIES,*** AS IF HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH BEFORE, THE ***HULK*** SUDDENLY DISCOVERS A ***NEW*** ONE, AS A SUDDEN ***BREEZE*** CATCHES HIM UNAWARE--

THE ***WIND*** BLEW THAT BIG FELLA'S ***HAT*** OFF! LET'S TRY TO--

IT'S ***HIM!!*** IT'S--THE ***HULK!!***

THEY KNOW WHO I ***AM!*** HAVE TO ***GET AWAY!***

RUN! GET OFF THE ***STREETS***--WHILE YOU STILL ***CAN!***

THE ***HULK!!*** ***HELP***--SOMEONE --***HELP!!*** WHAT WILL ***BECOME*** OF US?!!

HEY!! LOOK--!!

WE'VE GOTTA CALL THE ***POLICE--NOW!***

THUS, SECONDS LATER--

I ***FOUND*** HIM, SARGE!

STOP!! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY! THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD IS ***CORDONED OFF!***

HE'S MAKING A BREAK FOR IT! HEADING FOR ***SECTOR 3B,*** SARGE!

HULK! COME ***BACK!!*** COME BACK OR I'LL ***SHOOT!***

BUT, BEFORE THE FIRST SHOT CAN BE FIRED, THE ***HULK*** LUMBERS AROUND THE CORNER, ONLY TO HEAR--

POLICE--EVERYWHERE! HAVE TO ***HIDE!***

NOISE--HURTS MY EARS!! CAN'T ***STAND*** IT!

DON'T WANT ***COAT!*** DON'T WANT ***ANYTHING!*** HULK MUST BE ***FREE!***

EEEEEEEEEE!

DON'T *WANT* TO HURT THEM! WHY DO THEY *FORCE* ME--? WHY DO THEY ALWAYS *RUN*?

DOWN HERE! IF HULK CAN HIDE--CAN *ESCAPE* THEM--WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT! DON'T WANT TO *HURT* ANYONE! DON'T *WANT* TO--!

CAN'T STAND *NOISE*! MUST GET *AWAY*-- BEFORE TOO LATE!!

EEEEEE

BUT, WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS, A BAZOOKA-CARRYING SPECIAL POLICE SQUAD FOLLOWS THE TRAIL OF THE FLEEING TITAN--!

EVERYBODY *BACK*--OUT OF THE STATION!!

MOVE!! THIS IS AN *EMERGENCY*!

QUICKLY, OFFICER!! HE RAN THAT WAY! WE *SAW* HIM!

DON'T WORRY, HONEY-- *THEY'LL* GET HIM!

EVEN THE *HULK* CAN'T STAND UP TO A *BAZOOKA*!

AND THEN, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN AT *ONCE*--

UNHHHH!

MOMENTARILY LOSING HIS FOOTING, DUE TO THE UNEXPECTED FORCE OF THE SHELL, THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL TO STRIDE THE EARTH TOPPLES FROM THE STATION PLATFORM--

--LANDING SQUARELY ATOP THE DEADLY, HIGHLY-CHARGED *THIRD RAIL*--

ZZZZZZ

ABSORBING ENOUGH ELECTRICAL VOLTAGE TO KILL A *HUNDRED* MEN, THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* MERELY SHRUGS OFF THE SHOCK, RISING TO HIS FEET WITH A COLD, MOUNTING *RAGE* WELLING WITHIN HIM--

HULK IS *THRU* RUNNING!! IF THEY *WANT* A FIGHT--

THE *TRAIN*!! FILLED WITH *PEOPLE*!! RACING THRU TUNNEL!!

IF IT HITS *BROKEN RAIL*-- EVERYBODY *DIES*! MUST BE *STOPPED*!

POSSESSING THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL LEGS, HE COULD EASILY LEAP TO FREEDOM--BUT, IN SOME DIM RECESS OF HIS CLOUDED BRAIN, THE PART OF HIM WHICH IS STILL *BRUCE BANNER* COMPELS THE HULK TO *ACT*--!

SKREEEEEE

THEN, PAIN STINGING EVERY MUSCLE, EVERY NERVE OF HIS GREAT, GREEN-SKINNED BODY--HIS MIND ACHING, DAZED, CONFUSED--THE TORMENTED CREATURE *TURNS*, AND LUMBERS INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE YAWNING TUNNEL--

STOP HIM! HE TRIED TO *WRECK THE TRAIN!*

NO! HE *SAVED* US ALL! I *SAW* IT! HE *SAVED* US!

HE'S A *MENACE!!* IF HE ISN'T STOPPED, *NOBODY* WILL BE SAFE!

DON'T YOU *UNDER-STAND??* HE TRIED TO *HELP* US!!

YOU'RE *CRAZY!* YOU WERE *SEEING* THINGS!

DON'T LISTEN TO THAT CRUMMY HULK-LOVER!

GET EVERY-ONE *OUT* OF HERE, MAC!

STAY BACK--CLEAR THE STATION!! BREAK IT UP!!

WITH THE *HULK* ON THE LOOSE--*ANY-THING* CAN HAPPEN!

THERE HE *IS*--JUST *AHEAD* OF US!!

DON'T FIRE!! HE'S NOT ATTACKING US! LET'S SEE WHAT HE *DOES!*

HE CAN'T ESCAPE! THERE ARE *MORTARS* AT EACH END OF THE TUNNEL!

BUT--*LOOK!* WHAT'S HE GONNA *DO--??*

BAROOM!

SUDDENLY, LIKE SOME GIGANTIC, PRIMORDIAL BEAST, THE UN-STOPPABLE *HULK* HURTLES TO THE SURFACE WITH THE FORCE OF A *PILE DRIVER--!*

NOTHING STOPS THE *HULK!!*

THRUMPP!

I'M *FREE!*

THOOM!

FREE--

--TO DO--WHAT.??!

...AND THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'LL FIND OUT--

NEXT ISSUE!

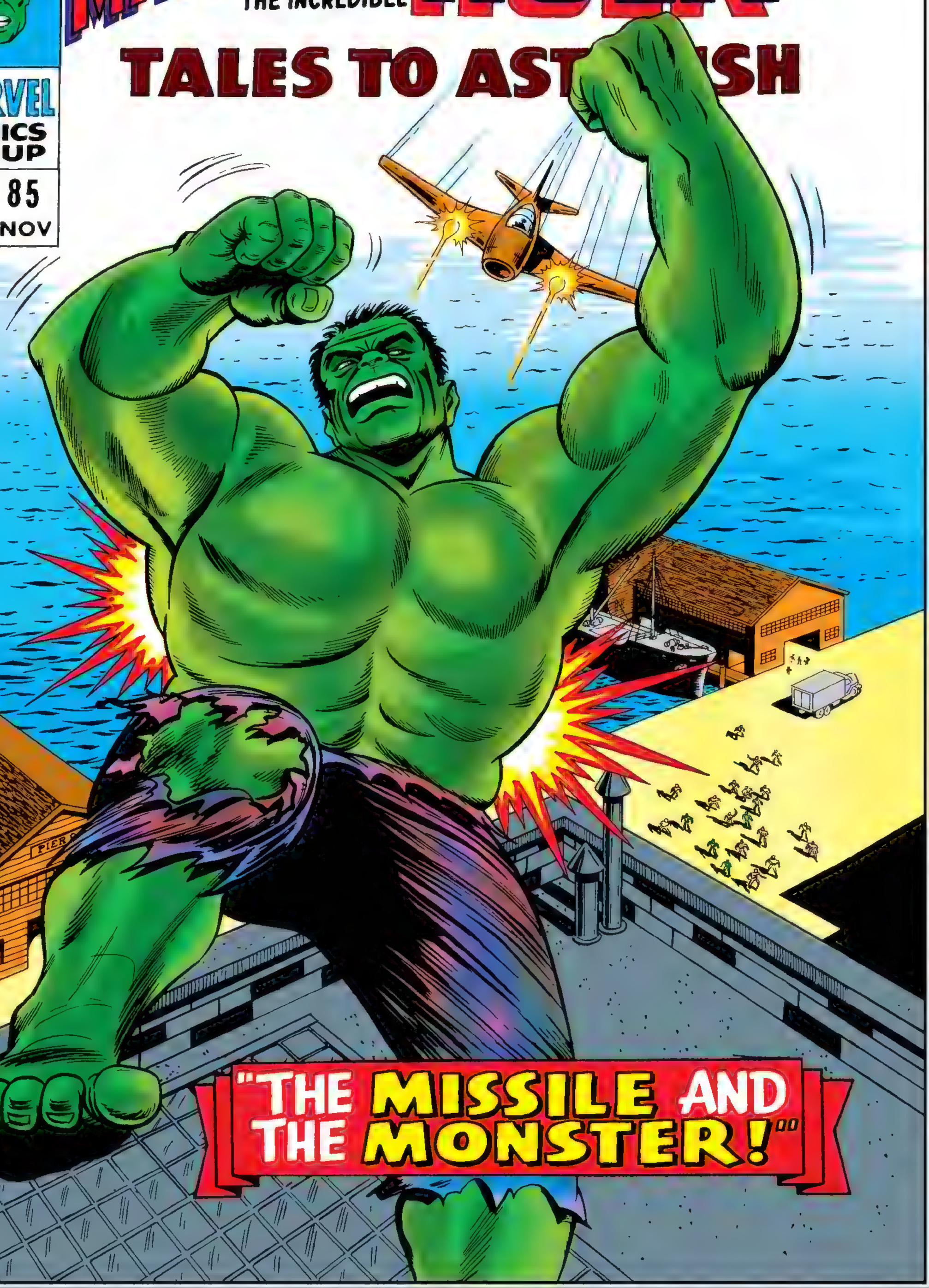
SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 85 NOV

TALES TO AST[illegible]SH



"THE MISSILE AND THE MONSTER!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"THE MISSILE AND The MONSTER!"

LIKE A BEAST AT BAY, THE RAMPAGING *HULK* FINDS HIMSELF ALONE IN THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF NEW YORK--HUNTED, HOUNDED--BESET BY A PANICKY POPULACE WHEREVER HE TURNS--!

IF HE GOT *THIS* FAR INTO THE CITY, THEN, *NOTHING* CAN STOP HIM!

EVERYBODY *YELLS... RUNS...* WHY? *WHY??*

LOOK!! OVER *THERE---!* IT--IT'S THE *HULK! OHHHHH!*

THERE'S NO PLACE TO *RUN!* HE CAN SMASH HIS WAY-- INTO *ANYTHING!*

SKRA!

WOTTA SHOT! HE SHATTERED THAT *IRON STANCHION* WITHOUT EVEN *FEELING* IT!

HULK! THIS IS THE *LAW!* GIVE YOURSELF UP-- DON'T MAKE ME *SHOOT!*

ALMOST EVERYONE *ELSE* HAS TAKEN A WHACK AT PENCILLING OL' GREEN SKIN'S ADVENTURES, SO WE THOUGHT IT WAS HIGH TIME WE COAXED ONE OF OUR MOST FAMOUS MARVEL ALUMNI TO ADD *HIS* TOWERING TALENT TO OUR EVER-GROWING RANKS OF ARTISTIC HULKOPHILES! WE HAVE A HUNCH YOU'RE GONNA *LIKE* THE RESULTS...

SCRIPT: *STAN LEE*
PENCILS: *JOHN BUSCEMA*
INKS: *JOHN TARTAGLIONE*
LETTERING: *RAY HOLLOWAY*
HULK'S PANTS-PRESSING: *IRVING FORBUSH*

NOBODY SHOOTS THE HULK!

RUN! HE'S ABOUT TO ATTACK--!

NO! WE'RE ALMOST BENEATH HIS NOTICE!

HE'S LEAPING AWAY-- BUT- THE POWER-- THE FORCE OF HIS LEGS--HE-HE TOOK OFF LIKE A MISSILE!

THOOM!

AND, EVEN AS THE INCREDIBLE GREEN GIANT HURTLES OVER THE CITY-- A WORRIED RICK JONES COMPLETES THE LAST LAP OF HIS FRANTIC DRIVE FROM CAPE KENNEDY---

THE HULK NEEDS ME! I'VE GOTTA REACH 'IM IN TIME!

THE LINCOLN TUNNEL'S JUST AHEAD! I'M ALMOST THERE!

I WAS LUCKY TO FIND SOME-ONE WHO WANTED ME TO DRIVE HIS CAR TO NEW YORK!

BUT I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHY HE MADE SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF WARNING ME NOT TO OPEN THE TRUNK!

WHILE, BACK AT CAPE KENNEDY---

THAT FOOL BOY WILL BE REACHING HIS DESTINATION ANY MINUTE NOW!

I PLANNED TOO CAREFULLY FOR ANYTHING TO GO WRONG!

AFTER THE WAY I WARNED HIM, JONES WOULDN'T DARE TO OPEN THE CAR'S TRUNK!

SO I'D BETTER MAKE SURE THAT ALL IS IN READINESS!

CLICK!

NO ONE YET SUSPECTS WHAT'S BEHIND THIS INNOCENT-SEEMING DOOR--!

BUT, ONE DAY THE WORLD WILL KNOW!

AND, ON THAT DAY, IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR THE GREATEST CITY ON EARTH TO SAVE ITSELF-- FROM INSTANT ANNIHILATION!

SO FAR, MY TIMING HAS BEEN PERFECT!

MY CAR WILL REACH NEW YORK EXACTLY AT H-HOUR--

--AT THE PRECISE MOMENT GENERAL ROSS GIVES THE ORDER TO LAUNCH THE ORION MISSILE!

LITTLE DOES JONES *DREAM* THAT MY SPECIAL *ULTRA-WAVE SCANNER,* CONCEALED BENEATH THE CAR'S FLOOR-BOARD, CAN MONITOR HIS EVERY MOVEMENT FROM AFAR!

I HAVE LEFT *NOTHING* TO CHANCE!

NOW, ALL I NEED DO IS WAIT FOR THE INSTANT WHEN THE *ORION MISSILE* BLASTS OFF!

AND THEN-- NOTHING ON EARTH WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE-- *NEW YORK!*

HOW CAN ONE MAN, HIDING OUT IN THE CAPE KENNEDY AREA, HOPE TO MENACE AMERICA'S GREATEST METROPOLIS ? BEFORE *ANSWERING* THAT, LET'S VISIT THE SITE OF THE AMAZING *ORION MISSILE---*

READY FOR THE *COUNTDOWN,* GENERAL ROSS!

BLAMED WELL ABOUT *TIME,* MAJOR!

COME *ALONG,* TALBOT- YOU *TOO,* BETTY! WE'LL VIEW THE BLAST-OFF AT *OPERATIONS!*

WHY IS THE *ORION* MISSILE SO *IMPORTANT,* FATHER ?

BECAUSE IT IS *ANTI-MISSILE-PROOF!* NO *OTHER* MISSILE CAN DESTROY IT ONCE IT'S IN FLIGHT!

IF THIS *TEST-LAUNCH* CHECKS OUT, IT WILL GIVE US THE GREATEST WEAPON OF *ALL!*

TEN-- HUTTTT!

YOU'RE JUST IN *TIME,* GENERAL! THE COUNT IS THIRTY SECONDS TILL LIFT-OFF!

OF *COURSE* I'M IN TIME! I'M *ALWAYS* ON TIME! THAT'S WHY I'M IN *CHARGE* OF THIS WHOLE BLASTED MISSION!

OL' THUNDER-BOLT'S AS PEPPERY AS EVER ! THAT MEANS EVERY-THING'S A-OKAY!

FINALLY-- THE *SECRET EMPIRE* TRIED TO STOP US! THE *HULK* TRIED TO STOP US! *BOOMERANG* TRIED TO STOP US!* BUT THERE SHE *GOES,* SIR! RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!

OH, DAD! IT'S SUCH AN *IMPRESSIVE* SIGHT!

I'LL *STILL* BREATHE EASIER WHEN IT LANDS IN MID-ATLANTIC!

*SEE WHAT YOU *MISSED* IF YOU'VE DALLIED WITH BRAND ECHH THESE PAST FEW MONTHS ?-- SCORNFUL STAN.

IF ANYTHING SHOULD GO **WRONG**-- IF IT SHOULD SWERVE **OFF COURSE**-- **IT CAN'T BE DESTROYED!**

AND, THE **ORION** IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO **LEVEL AN ENTIRE CITY!**

BUT, THERE'S **NOTHING** TO FEAR, SIR--

HER TRAJECTORY'S **PERFECT!** SHE'S RIGHT ON COURSE!

BUT HER FLIGHT WILL LAST FOR **SEVEN MINUTES!**

THAT'S WHY WE'RE TESTING HER OVER THE **OCEAN**... FOR **SAFETY!**

WHILE, A THOUSAND MILES TO THE NORTH, WE FIND---

WHEREVER HULK GOES--MEN **ATTACK!!** BUT, HULK IS **THRU** RUNNING! HULK IS AFRAID OF **NOTHING!!**

THERE HE IS-- ATOP THAT **ROOF!**

NOTHING CAN HURT ME!! I'M THE **HULK!** **I'M THE HULK!!**

CLEAR THE STREETS!!

GET YOUR **BARRICADES** UP! GET THOSE **CROWDS** BACK!

SOMEHOW I CAN'T HELP FEELIN' **SORRY** FOR HIM!

HE'S SO **ALONE**-- ALWAYS SO **OUT-NUMBERED!**

BUT DON'T EVER SAY HE HASN'T A **CHANCE!** NOT THE **HULK!**

WHY DOESN'T HE **GIVE UP!** HE HASN'T A **CHANCE** AGAINST THAT **PLANE!**

HE'S JUST **STANDING** THERE--AS THOUGH **DARING** ME TO ATTACK HIM!

WELL, HE'LL BE **GETTING** HIS WISH!

I DON'T **WANNA** DO IT-- BUT THE CITY'S IN **PANIC**-- AND I'VE GOT MY **ORDERS!**

HE'S GETTING SET TO *LEAP*-- TO MEET ME *HEAD-ON!*

PHOOM!

I'VE NO *CHOICE*-- ONLY A *ROCKET VOLLEY* WILL *STOP* HIM!

HE-HE'S AS STRONG AS THEY *SAY!* THE SHELLS ARE *BOUNCING OFF* HIM!

ALL THEY DID WAS MAKE HIM *LOSE HIS FOOTING!!* BUT MAYBE THAT'S *ENOUGH!*

KRAK!

HE'S *FALLING*-- TOPPLING FROM THE *ROOF!!*

HE'S GONNA *HIT!!* GET *BACK! BACK!!*

HE'S *DONE FOR!*

NEVER THOUGHT IT COULD HAPPEN-- SO *FAST*--!

BK-OOM!

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A MENACE TO PUBLIC SAFETY, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL--*LOOK!!* HE-HE'S *MOVING!!*

IT ISN'T *POSSIBLE!!* AFTER A FALL LIKE *THAT*--

HE'S STILL *ALIVE!!*

UNNHHHH--

IF HE COULD SURVIVE *THAT*-- THEN, HOW CAN *ANYTHING* STOP HIM???

MEN WON'T LET HULK *LIVE!* EVERYONE-- EVERYWHERE-- HULK'S *ENEMY!*

CAN'T *TAKE* ANY MORE!! NOW-- *HULK STRIKES BACK!!*

LOOK OUT! HE'S LIFTING THAT CAR LIKE A TOY! RUN--!
HE'S LIKE A LIVING BULLDOZER! HE CAN DO ANYTHING!
HULK CAN ALSO FIGHT-- ALSO SMASH--!
SIRENS! THE RIOT SQUAD IS COMING!
BUT THEY WON'T BE IN TIME!
EEEE

BUT THE BROODING GREEN GIANT IS DESTINED TO HAVE THE GREATEST FIGHT OF HIS INCREDIBLE *LIFE* IN JUST A FEW SECONDS! AND ALL BECAUSE OF--*THIS---!*

REACH, GORKI! WE TRACKED YOU DOWN *AT LAST!* YOU DIDN'T THINK A SPY LIKE *YOU* COULD STAY HIDDEN FROM ARMY INTELLIGENCE MUCH *LONGER,* DID YOU?

BAH! WHAT DOES IT *MATTER? MY* LIFE MEANS *NOTHING!* ONLY THE *MISSION* COUNTS!

AND YOU ARE *TOO LATE* TO STOP THE MISSION!

SLAM

TAKE YOUR HAND AWAY FROM THAT CONTROL PANEL, MISTER!

CERTAINLY! BUT NOT UNTIL I PRESS THIS ONE FATEFUL *BUTTON!*

EVEN A *GUNSHOT* WOULD BE TOO LATE TO STOP ME *NOW!*

I CAN'T SHOOT YOU IN COLD BLOOD-- BUT I *WARN* YOU--

TOO LATE! HE'S *PRESSING* IT!

CLICK!

IT'S DONE!

NOW, NOTHING ON *EARTH* CAN SAVE *NEW YORK CITY* FROM YOUR OWN *ORION MISSION!*

A THOUSAND MILES AWAY--AT THAT EXACT SPLIT-SECOND--

CAR TRUNK--*OPENING*--BY *ITSELF!*

JUST AS THOUGH SOMETHING *SIGNALLED* IT--BY *REMOTE CONTROL!*

LOOK! LOOK WHAT'S *INSIDE!*

I WAS WARNED NOT TO *OPEN* IT-- BUT I NEVER GUESSED--WAIT! IT'S *MOVING*-- GETTING *BIGGER!*

IT-IT *TELESCOPED* OPEN--

ITS WEIGHT IS *BENDING* THE CAR AS IT STEPS OUT!

IT'S SOME KINDA GIANT METAL *ROBOT! HULK-- LOOK OUT!*

ZZZZZ

ZZZZ

COMING TOWARD *HULK!* AT LAST-- SOMETHING TO *FIGHT--!*

CRUNCH!

NO! RUN! GET *AWAY--!* IT'S TOO *BIG--* TOO *DANGEROUS!*

ZZZZZ

IT'S CRACKLING WITH *ELECTRONIC ENERGY!* WE DON'T KNOW ITS *POWER--* OR ITS *PURPOSE!*

IT-IT'S UNLEASHING SOME KINDA *BOLT!* IT'S COMING RIGHT *AT* US!

THEN, BEFORE THE HULK CAN MAKE A MOVE, THE FANTASTIC BOLT STRIKES...

ZAK!

NEXT, THE TOWERING ELECTRONIC APPARITION *TURNS*--EMOTIONLESSLY PERFORMING THE *FATEFUL TASK* IT WAS PROGRAMMED TO DO--!

ZZZZZ

MACHINE--TRIED TO KILL--HULK!

HE'S SHOOTING A *BEAM* OF SOME SORT --INTO THE *SKY!* BUT --WHY??

BUT, THE *HULK* CARES NOTHING FOR REASONS WHY--

THRUM!

ZZZZ

ZZZZ

--HE ONLY KNOWS THAT HE HAS BEEN *ATTACKED*-- AND WHATEVER ATTACKS THE *HULK*-- MUST BE *DESTROYED!*

Z

HULK! LOOK *OUT!* HE'S LETTING GO WITH *ANOTHER* BLAST!

THIS TIME-- HULK IS *READY!*

WHAK!

PHPLAM!

NOTHING CAN HURT HULK *TWICE!*

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT--A *MACHINE!* NO MACHINE CAN BEAT--THE *HULK!*

WRAM!

NOTHING-- IS AS STRONG--AS THE *HULK!*

HULK-- *WAIT!* DON'T *DESTROY* IT YET!

NOT UNTIL WE LEARN ITS *PURPOSE*--FIND OUT *WHY* IT FIRED THAT BLAST INTO THE *SKY*--!

NO! DON'T--!

BUT, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IS FILLED WITH EXPLOSIVE, SEETHING *RAGE*, NO MERE WORDS--NO POWER EXTANT--CAN *STOP* HIM--!

MACHINE WILL NEVER-- ATTACK HULK-- *AGAIN!!*

KLOK!

HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T YET *REALIZE* IT, THE HULK HAS STRUCK *TOO LATE*...FOR THE DIABOLICAL ROBOT HAS ALREADY *SERVED* ITS DEADLY PURPOSE!

MISSION CONTROL! MISSION CONTROL! MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

SOMETHING'S *HAPPENED* TO THE *ORION! LOOK*-- ON THE *RADAR* SCREEN--!

IT'S AS THOUGH IT RECEIVED A SUDDEN SIGNAL FROM *ELSE-WHERE*--MAKING IT *CHANGE DIRECTION!*

IT'S ZEROED IN ON *NEW YORK!* AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN *STOP* IT!

CONTACT THE *PENTAGON*--THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*--THE *AVENGERS*--*ANYBODY!* THE *ORION* MUST BE *STOPPED!*

TOO LATE! ONLY *SECONDS* LEFT! IT'S *HOPELESS!*

YES, THE MURDEROUS *GORKI'S* ROBOT HAS DONE ITS JOB WITH FRIGHTFUL PRECISION! AND NOW, THE ONLY POWER ON EARTH THAT CAN SAVE THE UNSUSPECTING CITY, IS--

--THE INCREDIBLE *HULK!*

LOOK! ABOVE US! IT'S SOME KINDA *MISSILE!* IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR THE HEART OF THE *CITY!*

MISSILE--??!

AND THEN, SOMEWHERE IN THAT BESTIAL, CLOUDED BRAIN--A DIM SPARK OF THE INTELLIGENCE THAT IS *BRUCE BANNER* SUDDENLY SHINES THRU--

ORION MISSILE!! COULD BLOW UP WHOLE *CITY!*

NO *WONDER* HE RECOGNIZES IT--IT WAS *DR. BANNER* HIMSELF WHO *DESIGNED* IT!

HE'S LEAPING *AFTER* IT! IT'S *MAN AGAINST MISSILE!*

WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHY--WITHOUT CONSCIOUS MOTIVATION--GUIDED BY AN INEXPLICABLE, INTUITIVE URGE, THE *HULK* SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE MOST *VITAL* LEAP OF HIS ENTIRE LIFE--!

HAH! I *CAUGHT* MISSILE!

BUT THEN, HAVING REACHED HIS AWESOME OBJECTIVE, A *NEW* DEVELOPMENT OCCURS--

THE GAMMA-RAY-AFFECTED *BRAIN* OF THE GREEN TITAN SLOWLY *FORGETS* THE REASON FOR HIS LEAP...

WHAT AM I *DOING* HERE?

AND, WITH FORGETFULNESS, THE *RAGE* WITHIN HIS BREAST GRADUALLY *SUBSIDES,* UNTIL...

AS HIS PULSE RATE SLOWS--AS HIS BLOOD PRESSURE RETURNS TO NORMAL--THE MOST INCREDIBLE *TRANSFORMATION* IN RECORDED MEDICAL HISTORY OCCURS ONCE MORE--

I-I'M *CHANGING--!*

I'M BECOMING--*BRUCE BANNER--!*

BUT, WHAT CHANCE CAN WEAK, HELPLESS *BRUCE BANNER* HAVE--RIDING A ROCKETING *MISSILE*--ON A MISSION OF *DEATH?!!*

HULK-INUED *NEXT ISH!*

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 86 DEC

"THE WRATH OF WARLORD KRANG!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"THE BIRTH OF... THE HULK-KILLER!"

ONE WAY
AT THIS MOMENT, ALL YOU NEED KNOW IS THAT A DEADLY ORION MISSILE, SABOTAGED BY AN ENEMY SPY, IS HEADED FOR-- THE HEART OF NEW YORK!
LOOK! THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE MISSILE!
PALACE

SUPERLATIVE SCRIPT: *SMILIN'* STAN LEE
AMELIORATIVE ART: *JOVIAL* JOHN BUSCEMA
IMAGINATIVE INKS: *MIRTHFUL* MICK DEMEO
LUCRATIVE LETTERING: *ADORABLE* ARTIE SIMEK

TRUE ENOUGH, THERE *IS* SOMEONE RIDING THE DEADLY MISSILE! SOMEONE WE KNOW AS *DR. BRUCE BANNER*--

THERE'S *STILL* ONE CHANCE OF SAVING THE CITY!

I *DESIGNED* THIS MISSILE! I KNOW EVERY CIRCUIT--EVERY INCH OF *WIRING* IT CONTAINS!

THERE'S NO TIME TO CHANGE ITS COURSE FROM THE *GROUND*--BUT, BY ALTERING ITS DIRECTION-FINDER *MANUALLY*, I CAN STILL *DO* IT!

CLICK!

AND, AT *MISSILE CONTROL*--

LOOK! THE ROCKET'S *SWERVING!* IT'S *CHANGING COURSE* AGAIN! IT'LL *OVER-SHOOT* THE CITY!

IT--IT'S JUST LIKE A *MIRACLE!*

WHATEVER THE REASON, A FEW *MILLION* PEOPLE HAVE JUST BEEN GIVEN A NEW LEASE ON LIFE!

MIRACLE, MY *FOOT!* SOMEONE'S *GUIDING* IT--*THAT'S* FOR SURE!

I *DID* IT! I SET ITS GUIDANCE PACKAGE FOR A HARMLESS *SEA LANDING!*

I'LL BE CARRIED DOWN TO MY DEATH ALONG *WITH* THE ORION--BUT, AT LEAST, MY LIFE WON'T HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN *VAIN!*

THOUGH I'VE LIVED AS THE MONSTROUS *HULK*--I'LL DIE AS *BRUCE BANNER*--I'LL DIE AS--A *MAN!*

BUT, EVEN AS THE HURTLING MISSILE PLUNGES TO A WATERY GRAVE--

NO! DON'T *WANNA* DIE! *WON'T* DIE--!

NOTHING CAN KILL ME! I'M TOO *STRONG*--TOO *POWERFUL!*

THE AWESOME ANTICIPATION OF HIS IMPENDING FATE CAUSES BRUCE BANNER'S *PULSE* TO QUICKEN...ONCE AGAIN TRIGGERING ANOTHER OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE *TRANSFORMATIONS* IN RECORDED HISTORY--!

NOTHING CAN KILL--THE *HULK!*

BKOOK

BUT, SECONDS LATER, AN *AIR FORCE JET*, WHICH HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE RUNAWAY MISSILE, GOES INTO *ACTION*--!

FTAKKA PAKKA BTAKKA PAKKA

THE *HULK*! I'LL *GET* THAT KILLER!

PTWEEEEEEEEE

IT'S *NO USE*! I WASTED MY *ROCKETS* AGAINST THE ORION--AND ORDINARY *BULLETS* WON'T HURT *HIM*!

BUT, AT LEAST I CAN RADIO THE BRASS--SO THEY'LL KNOW WHO WAS *BEHIND* THE ATTACK ON NEW YORK!

SPARROW ONE TO *BASE COMMAND*! ORION WAS SABOTAGED BY *HULK*! RIDING ATOP THE MISSILE, HE TRIED TO AIM IT AT HEART OF CITY, BUT OVER-SHOT THE MARK! ORION *DESTROYED*--BUT *HULK STILL LIVES*!

BUT NOW, OUR SCENE CHANGES TO THE INTERIOR OF A STRANGE *LAB*, JUST DISCOVERED BY A CRACK TEAM OF SEARCHING POLICE OFFICERS--

SO *THIS* IS WHERE THE *LEADER'S* LAB WAS HIDDEN! I *KNEW* WE'D FIND IT SOONER OR LATER!

BEATS *ME*, CHIEF! BUT WE BETTER NOT *MESS* WITH IT!

BUT, WHAT IN THE NAME OF BENJAMIN J. GRIMM IS *THAT*?!!

LET'S POKE AROUND SOME... THE *LEADER* MAY HAVE LEFT SOME *NOTES* BEHIND!*

*AS EVERY ERUDITE *HULKOPHILE* KNOWS, THE *LEADER* WAS THE GREEN-SKINNED ARCH-VILLAIN WHOM OUR JOLLY GREEN GREMLIN FOUGHT ISH AFTER ISH, UNTIL HIS FOE'S SUDDEN *DEMISE* IN ASTONISH #74. --SET-THE-RECORD-STRAIGHT STAN!

THIS *DIARY* IS WHAT WE WANT!

THE *LEADER* BUILT SOME KINDA POWERFUL ROBOTS--HE CALLED 'EM *HUMANOIDS*!

BUT, THE *HULK* POLISHED 'EM ALL OFF--EXCEPT *THIS* ONE!

THIS BOZO WAS SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED TO BE ABLE TO *BEAT* THE HULK --NO MATTER *WHAT*!

TOO BAD THE LEADER DIDN'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO *USE* HIM!

THIS IS TOO BIG FOR *US*! I'LL CONTACT THE *PENTAGON*!

WITHIN AN HOUR, A SPECIAL PLANE BRINGS *GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS* TO THE SCENE, WITH HIS DAUGHTER, *BETTY*, AND ACE SECURITY OFFICER, *MAJOR GLEN TALBOT*...

I'M 'WAY *AHEAD* OF YOU, TALBOT! THIS IS OUR *ONE* CHANCE TO FINISH OFF THAT GREEN GAR-GOYLE, *FOREVER*!

OF *COURSE* WE'LL FIND A WAY! I'LL HAVE OUR TOP RESEARCH EXPERT HERE BEFORE NIGHTFALL!

GENERAL, THINK WHAT IT *MEANS* IF THAT *HUMANOID* WAS DESIGNED TO DEFEAT THE *HULK*!

IF WE CAN JUST FIND A WAY TO BRING IT TO *LIFE*!

AND, THE BOMBASTIC, TWO-FISTED GENERAL IS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! FOR, A SHORT TIME LATER--

THOSE ARE THE *LEADER'S* NOTES! *STUDY THEM!* I DON'T CARE *HOW* LONG IT TAKES--I WANT YOU TO BRING THAT HUMANOID TO *LIFE!*

I'LL *WAIT* TILL YOU'VE *DONE* IT! I WANT THAT THING TO *DESTROY THE HULK!*

BUT, GENERAL --I DON'T KNOW HOW *LONG* IT MIGHT TAKE!

I DIDN'T *ASK* YOU THAT! I SAID I'LL *WAIT!* THAT'S *ALL!*

BUT, DAD--

STAY *OUT* OF THIS, BETTY!

NOW *MOVE!* NONE OF US ARE GETTIN' ANY *YOUNGER!*

THEN, SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT--

ACCORDING TO HIS *NOTES,* EVERYTHING SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL NOW!

ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS MANIPULATE THESE *CONTROLS* IN THE PROPER SEQUENCE!

THE LEADER MUST HAVE BEEN A *GENIUS* TO HAVE CREATED SUCH A COMPLEX ARTIFICIAL FORM OF *LIFE!*

THERE! I'VE *DONE* IT!

ZZZZZZ

ZAK!

IT *WORKED!* HE--HE'S *ALIVE!*

AT *LAST!* IF *ANYTHING* CAN DESTROY THE BLASTED *HULK,* A KING-SIZE *HUMANOID* SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

LOOK! HE'S SHATTERED THE PLEXI-GLASS CAGE INTO NOTHING-NESS!

HE'S AS POWERFUL AS HE LOOKS!

HE'LL HAVE TO BE--TO BEAT THE HULK!

TLANK!

HOLD IT! DON'T LET HIM GO YET!

WE HAVE TO GIVE HIM HIS ORDERS!

HE MUST BE STOPPED! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO FREE--OUT OF CONTROL!

HE WON'T STOP, GENERAL!

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO HOLD BACK A TANK!

THUMP!

HE'S WALKING THRU A CEMENT WALL--AS THOUGH IT ISN'T THERE!

BULLETS DON'T AFFECT HIM! HIS BODY ABSORBS THEM--LIKE A GIANT SANDBAG!

KRAK! KRAK!

CRR

I'LL CALL HQ! WE NEED REIN-FORCEMENTS! DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF HIM!

MEANWHILE, HIS ONE STEADFAST FRIEND HAS REFUSED TO DESERT THE MOST HATED, HUNTED, HOUNDED, AND HARASSED GREEN-SKINNED HUMAN IN THE WORLD--

HULK! I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE!

YOU'VE GOT TO COME WITH ME--I'LL FIND YOU A PLACE TO HIDE!

EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORION MISSILE!

THEY DON'T KNOW YOU WERE TRYING TO SAVE THE CITY!

HULK DOESN'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK!

THAT'S GOOD--'CAUSE THEY'RE BLAMIN' YOU FOR EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!

SAY! THIS IRON FOUNDRY WOULD BE A GREAT PLACE TO HIDE--IF ONLY WE COULD GET IN!

KRUNCH!

HULK CAN GET IN--ANYWHERE!

BOY! YOU'RE ONE GUY WHO DOESN'T HAVETA WORRY ABOUT LOSIN' HIS KEY!

THE PLACE IS DESERTED!

YOU WAIT HERE, HULK! I'LL GO OUT AND GET US SOMETHING TO EAT!

HURRY!--WON'T STAY HERE LONG!

EVERYONE ATTACKS HULK! BUT WON'T ATTACK ANY MORE! NEXT TIME--HULK ATTACKS--FIRST!

MEANWHILE, AT ANOTHER SECRET HIDEOUT, WE FIND STILL ANOTHER FAMILIAR FIGURE--THE BOMBASTIC BOOMERANG--

SINCE THE SECRET EMPIRE HAS BEEN SMASHED, I HAVEN'T BEEN PAID FOR MY SERVICE TO THEM!

I RISKED MY LIFE--BATTLING THE DEADLY HULK--AND ALL FOR NOTHING!

BUT, IT WASN'T A TOTAL LOSS, AFTER ALL--!

THOK!

AFTER BATTLING THAT GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER, I LEARNED WHAT MY WEAKNESSES WERE--AND HOW TO REMEDY THEM!

I IMPROVED MY SKILL WITH MY BOOMERANG --WITH MY WHIRLING DISCS--WITH MY ROCKET JETS! I'M TWICE THE FIGHTER I WAS BEFORE!

SPLAK

NOW, THERE'S NOTHING I CANNOT DO!

MY FLYING BOOMERANG CAN BE USED LIKE A SUPER-KARATE BLOW --AS THAT SHATTERED 15-INCH IRON SLAB CAN TESTIFY!

EVEN THE HULK HIMSELF COULDN'T STAND UP TO ME NOW--AS HE WILL ONE DAY FIND OUT!

AS FOR MY MINIATURIZED DISCS, THEY'RE FAR DEADLIER THAN EVER!

ALL MY FORMER SKILL, AS AN EX-BASEBALL PITCHER, HAS PAID OFF FOR ME IN SPADES!

WITH A DISC IN MY HAND, NO WEAPON ON EARTH CAN THREATEN ME!

HSSTT!

AND MY *JETS* ARE NOW THE EQUAL OF ANY FLYING DEVICE IN THE WORLD!

NO MATTER *HOW* FAST, OR FAR, THE HULK MAY LEAP--I'M HIS *MASTER* NOW!

AND, I ALSO POSSESS ONE UNDENIABLE *ADVANTAGE*...

WHOOSH!

THE HULK HAS NOTHING BUT *BRUTE STRENGTH* AND *BESTIAL POWER* TO SERVE HIM! BUT *I*--

I HAVE MADE MYSELF EASILY HIS EQUAL IN *POWER*--AND I'M UNDOUBTEDLY HIS *SUPERIOR* IN NATIVE *INTELLIGENCE!*

SO, WHEN NEXT WE MEET AGAIN--IT IS *BOOMERANG* WHO SHALL BE--THE *VICTOR!*

THP K!

IF, AT THIS POINT, YOU FEEL THAT THE WHOLE *WORLD* SEEMS TO BE AGAINST OUR HULKISH HERO, WE'D BE INCLINED TO *AGREE* WITH YOU! BUT, TEMPUS FUGIT--

WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT THE HUMANOID TO *LIFE!*

HE'S COMPLETELY OUT OF *CONTROL!*

HE'LL TEAR THE *CITY* APART!

GET THAT *ATOMIC FLAME THROWER* IN POSITION--ON THE *DOUBLE!*

ONE WAY

SHOOOM

HE DOESN'T EVEN *FEEL* IT! WHAT'S HE *MADE* OF, ANYWAY??

WHATEVER IT *IS*, THERE'S NOTHING IN OUR ARSENAL THAT'LL *STOP* 'IM!

WHEN THEY NICKNAMED HIM THE *HULK-KILLER*, THEY WEREN'T KIDDIN'! EVEN THE GREEN *GIANT* WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO *HIM!*

LOOK WHAT HE'S *DOIN'*-- WITH HIS BARE FISTS *ALONE!*

OH, *BROTHER!* SCRATCH ONE FLAME-THROWER!

RAK-K-K!

BUT, SUDDENLY, A NEW, TOTALLY *DIFFERENT* TYPE OF WEAPON IS RUSHED INTO POSITION...

QUICK! BEFORE HE CAN REALIZE WHAT'S COMING *NEXT!*

SWING THAT *MUZZLE* AROUND,' ESTIMATE TRAJECTORY AT IMPACT POINT *ZERO!*

HE *SEES* YOU! *MOVE,* MAN!

DON'T WORRY, MAJOR! *NOTHING* CAN STAND UP TO THIS ATOMIC-POWERED *SOUND CANNON!*

HERE *GOES--!*

ALTHOUGH STRUCK *POINT-BLANK* BY A CONCENTRATION OF THE DEADLIEST *SOUND IMPULSES* EVER CREATED, THE MONSTER'S *ELECTRONIC BRAIN* SETS UP AN INSTANTANEOUS *DEFENSE--*

MUST *DE-ACTIVATE* ALL AUDITORY AND SENSORY CIRCUITS! SOUND CANNOT PENETRATE *PLASTITHENE* BODY!

TAKE COVER! EVEN AT TARGET ZERO, SOUND DIDN'T AFFECT HIM!

REGROUP AT POSITION B! AWAIT NEW ORDERS! FALL BACK!

ONLY ONE OTHER CHANCE! THE HULK HIMSELF! MAYBE HE CAN STOP HIM!

FAN OUT! COMB THE AREA! FIND THE HULK!

PICK VOLUNTEERS TO ACT AS DECOYS! HE MUST BE LURED TO THIS SPOT!

TAKE OFF!

FOR LONG, GRUELLING MINUTES, THE HARD-PRESSED TROOPS FIGHT A DESPERATE, VALIANT DELAYING ACTION, UNTIL--

KLANG!

WE FOUND HIM! DISPERSE! HE'S HEADING THIS WAY--!

BEHIND BUILDING-- SOUND OF BATTLE! MORE TROOPS--WAITING FOR HULK!

HULK IS THRU RUNNING! NOW-- HULK FIGHTS BACK!

AND THEN--AT LAST-- THE TWO RAMPAGING TITANS FACE EACH OTHER--WITH BURNING FURY IN THEIR BREASTS--!

HE'S HERE! NOW, WITH LUCK, THEY'LL BOTH DESTROY EACH OTHER!

AS THOUGH SENSING THAT *FATE* HAS ORDAINED A LIFE-AND-DEATH BATTLE BETWEEN THEM, THE TWO BEHEMOTHS PREPARE TO *STRIKE!*

AND THEN--

WHOOM!

BUT, THOUGH HIS BODY *APPEARS* TO BE FLESH AND BLOOD, THE *HULK-KILLER'S* PLASTITHENE FRAME COMPLETELY *ABSORBS* THE CRUSHING BLOW--!

THAT PUNCH COULD'A SHATTERED A *MOUNTAIN*-- BUT THE HUMANOID DIDN'T EVEN *FEEL* IT!

TOK!

NOW HE'S TACKLING THE *HULK*--!

LOOK! HE'S GOT 'IM *DOWN!*

HE KNOCKED HIM OFF HIS PINS WITH THE *FIRST BLOW!*

NOW HE'S MOVIN' IN--TO *FINISH HIM OFF!*

THE HULK'S *GROGGY*-- HE CAN'T GET TO HIS *FEET*--!

10

HULK-INJUED

NEXT ISH!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 87 JAN

LES TO ASTONISH

AT LAST!! THE SECRET OF THE HULK REVEALED FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE!

NOW RENTING 2-2½-3 KENMORE APTS.

THEY'RE ON TV! MARVEL SUPER-HEROES

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"The HUMANOID AND The HERO!"

CREATED BY THE NOW-DEAD LEADER TO BE STRONGER THAN THE HULK, THE MOST POWERFUL HUMANOID OF ALL BATTLES OUR GREEN-SKINNED GIANT IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH--AND YOU ARE AN EYE-WITNESS--!
GEDDUP!
STORY: SMILIN' STAN LEE
ART: BIG JOHN BUSCEMA
INKS: MIGHTY MICKEY D.
LETTERING: ADORABLE ARTIE S.
READ THIS ONE SLOWLY, HULK BUFF! IT'S REALLY GONNA HITCHA WHERE YOU LIVE!

THOUGH BUILT IN MORTAL FORM, THE *HUMANOID'S* ARTIFICIAL BODY IS AS RESILIENT AS *RUBBER*--AS THE *HULK* LEARNS--IN FRANTIC FRUSTRATION--!

HIS BODY IS *SOFT--SOGGY*-- DOESN'T FEEL PUNCHES--!

AND, THE MORE HIS BESTIAL BRAIN REALIZES THE UTTER *FUTILITY* OF HIS BLOWS, THE MORE LIVID WITH *RAGE* THE HULK BECOMES--!

WHOK

FTAW

KOOM!

BUT, EVENTUALLY, EVEN *HIS* CLOUDED BRAIN BEGINS TO REALIZE THE *USELESSNESS* OF FURTHER ATTACK....!

THE HULK FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE HE CAN'T *BEAT!*

BUT--WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT?*

THE *HULK-KILLER'S* GONNA START SWINGIN' NOW! *HANG ON--!*

IF HE'S AS STRONG AS HE *LOOKS,* IT'LL BE BYE-BYE GREEN-SKIN!

LOP!

ARRGHHH!

AT LAST! THE HUMANOID FLOORED HIM WITH ONLY ONE SINGLE BLOW!

BUT--THE HULK IS REALLY BRUCE BANNER! WHY WON'T SOMEBODY HELP HIM?

WHOEVER NAMED HIM HULK-KILLER KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING, GENERAL!

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THE HULK--IT--IT MEANS THE END OF BRUCE, AS WELL!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTON HOW THE HULK--OR BANNER--WHO-EVER HE IS--TRIED TO DESTROY NEW YORK WITH THAT ORION MISSILE?

HE MUST BE SMASHED! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE AT LARGE!

BUT, DAD--HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE THAT HE WAS TRYING TO HARM THE CITY?

BECAUSE I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HIM--THE WAY YOU ARE!

AND, AT THAT MOMENT--A THOUSAND MILES AWAY, ON THE EAST COAST OF FLORIDA--

WE'VE GOT YOU DEAD TO RIGHTS! YOU'VE ALREADY CONFESSED THAT YOU SABOTAGED THE ORION MISSILE!

BUT THERE'S ONE THING MORE WE WANT TO KNOW--

HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO MAKE THE HULK TEAM UP WITH YOU? WHAT DID YOU OFFER HIM?

YOU'RE NUTS! THAT GREEN GORILLA NEVER WORKED WITH ME--I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!

HE RUINED EVERYTHING FOR ME! I THOUGHT HE WAS WORKING FOR YOU!

I HAD ARRANGED FOR THE MISSILE TO ZERO IN ON MANHATTAN--BUT WHEN HE LEAPED UP AT IT, HE MANAGED TO CHANGE ITS COURSE!

IF YOU'RE TRYIN' TO TRICK ME, IT WON'T WORK!

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT IT WAS THE HULK ALONE WHO SAVED YOUR CITY!

AND THEY'RE TRYING TO DESTROY HIM BACK IN NEW YORK!

I JUST HOPE --I'M NOT TOO LATE--!

GUARD! TAKE HIM BACK TO HIS CELL! I'VE AN EMERGENCY CALL TO MAKE!

THUS, SECONDS LATER--BACK AT THE SCENE OF BATTLE--

GET THAT SHELL IN THE PROTON CANNON--IN CASE WE NEED IT!

TALBOT SPEAKING! OF COURSE THIS IS GENERAL ROSS'S COMMAND! NO, HE CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE NOW! I'LL RELAY THE MESSAGE!

WHO'D BE CALLING AT A TIME LIKE THIS--?

WHAT?!! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, MAN--?!!

ON THE DOUBLE, YOU GUYS! THIS AINT A CRUMMY PICNIC!

THE HULK IS INNOCENT!

IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, WE MIGHT HAVE FINISHED HIM--AND THE HUMANOID--WITH THE PROTON GUN!

IF I HAD JUST RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE A MINUTE LATER--I'D HAVE BEEN RID OF BANNER--THE MAN BETTY LOVES--FOREVER!

WHAT'S COME OVER ME? HOW CAN I EVEN THINK SUCH A THING? I'M A SOLDIER! I'VE A DUTY TO PERFORM!

AND, IF THE HULK IS INNOCENT --HE MUST BE SAVED!

GENERAL ROSS! I'VE AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE FLAPPING YOUR OAK LEAVES, MAN! LET ME HAVE IT!

IT'S THE HULK! WE'VE JUST HAD WORD THAT IT WAS HE WHO SAVED THE CITY!

I KNEW IT! DEEP IN MY HEART, I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THE HUMANOID! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THE HULK!

WE'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT HIM-- TRAGICALLY WRONG! AND NOW WE'VE GOT TO MAKE UP FOR IT!

I'M AFRAID IT WON'T BE EASY, MAJOR! WE CAN'T USE THE PROTON SHELL ON ONE OF THEM, WITHOUT BLASTING THE OTHER, AS WELL!

IF ONLY WE COULD SEPARATE THEM, SOMEHOW--!

YOU'VE GOTTA LET ME THRU! I'M A FRIEND OF THE HULK'S!

SURE, SURE! AND I'M SUB-MARINER! NOW GET BACK, KID!

BUT, I CAN HELP HIM! HE NEEDS ME! CALL THE MAJOR--HE KNOWS ME--!

AND, AS GENERAL ROSS COGITATES, AND RICK JONES STRUGGLES TO BREAK THRU--THE BLOCK-BUSTING BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE--

KRAK!

HOW MUCH LONGER CAN THE HULK TAKE THAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT?

NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN SOMEONE ELSE COULD OUT-FIGHT THAT GREEN-SKINNED BULLDOZER!

YEAH--BUT REMEMBER ONE THING-- IT'S TAKIN' A PLASTIC-BODIED, INDESTRUCTIBLE MACHINE TO DO IT!

LOOK AT THE HULK NOW! IS HE DONE FOR, OR--NO! HE'S TRYING TO THINK! HE'S UP TO SOMETHING--!

HE'S MAKING ONE OF HIS HIGH-FLYIN' JUMPS!

HE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY! BUT-- LOOK--!

WH

HE SMASHED INTO THE HUMANOID!

OW

HE'S GONNA CARRY HIM UP WITH HIM!

NOW--SEE HOW YOU FIGHT-- IN THE AIR!

NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT! HE TOOK OFF LIKE A MISSILE!

BUT, UPON REACHING AN ALTITUDE OF 2,000 FEET--

DADDY! LOOK! OUT THE WINDOW!

NOT NOW, DEAR! I'M READING AN EXCITING STORY!

NO GOOD! HE MADE HIS BODY HOLLOW--

NOW HE CAN FLOAT UP HERE!

BUT, THE TIME HAS COME TO CHANGE OUR SCENE ONCE MORE--ALTHOUGH WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT--

REMEMBER THE BOMBASTIC BOOMERANG? WE HOPED YOU WOULD--'CAUSE HERE HE IS AGAIN--

AH! IT'S FINISHED AT LAST!

SINCE I'VE IMPROVED MY SKILLS, AND MY POWERS, IT WAS ONLY FITTING TO IMPROVE MY COSTUME, AS WELL!

MY OTHER ONE WAS A SYMBOL OF DEFEAT TO ME!

BUT, I NOW HAVE POWER UNMATCHED! NO DEADLY ENEMY CAN HOPE TO OUT-FIGHT ME AGAIN!

I'M A WALKING ARSENAL--BUT, FAR MORE THAN AN ARSENAL--I CAN THINK--I CAN ACT--AND, WITH MY ROCKET-POWERED BOOTS--I HAVE THE POWER OF FLIGHT!

EACH PORTABLE DISC WHICH I CARRY ON MY BLOUSE HAS THE POWER OF A DOZEN HAND GRENADES--AND CAN BE HURLED WITH DEADLIER ACCURACY!

AND SO, I BEGIN THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF ALL! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, IT WILL BE BOOMERANG--AGAINST THE WORLD!

WHILE FINISHING MY COSTUME, I LISTENED TO THE *NEWS* BROADCAST OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE *HULK* AND THE *HUMANOID!*

IT SEEMS THAT THE HULK IS *ONE* OPPONENT I'LL NEVER HAVE TO BATTLE AGAIN!

HE HASN'T A *CHANCE* AGAINST THAT INDESTRUCTIBLE *ROBOT!*

IF I HURRY, MAYBE I CAN STILL REACH THE SCENE IN TIME TO *GLOAT* OVER THE HULK'S *ANNIHILATION!*

I'M IN *LUCK!* THERE THEY ARE *NOW!*

HE WASN'T ABLE TO *FREE* HIMSELF OF THE HUMANOID IN THE AIR!

NOW THEY'RE *BOTH* CRASHING DOWN TO THE *GROUND* AGAIN... FOR THE *LAST TIME!*

FAREWELL, HULK! YOU'RE LUCKY IT WAS THE *HUMANOID* WHO BEAT YOU-- I MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS *GENTLE!*

THEN, AS THE CHORTLING *BOOMERANG* ROCKETS OFF INTO THE GATHERING TWILIGHT--

CRASH

BUT, NOT EVEN A 2,000 FOOT *FALL* CAN INJURE A *PLASTITHENE* BODY, OR A GREEN *GAMMA* BODY! AND SO--

CAN'T BEAT HIM IN AIR! MUST BEAT HIM ON *GROUND* --SOMEHOW!

NOBODY CAN DEFEAT *HULK--!*

HE'S COMING AT ME--AGAIN! CAN'T STOP HIM WITH *PUNCHES*-- CAN'T STOP HIM IN *AIR*--MUST BE *SOME* WAY--!

THEN, FOR THE *FIRST* TIME, THE HULK ADMITS TO HIMSELF--

I NEED *BANNER'S* BRAIN! *HE'D* KNOW WHAT TO DO! BUT--WHERE *IS* HE?*

*THE DULL-WITTED *HULK* CAN NEVER FULLY COMPREHEND THAT *HE* AND *BRUCE BANNER* ARE ONE AND THE SAME!--*SMILEY!*

MEANWHILE, THE *ARMY* HAS REACHED THE SPOT WHERE THE TWO SUPER-POWERFUL COMBATANTS HAVE LANDED--

GET THAT *GATE* OPEN, MAN! EVERY MINUTE *COUNTS!*

I DON'T *GET* IT! NO ONE TOLD ME ABOUT ANY *TRAINING MANEUVERS*--!

BLAST IT, I'M *THUNDERBOLT ROSS,* COMMANDING GENERAL FOR THIS SECTOR!

CLOSED

NAVY YARD

IT'S *NOT* MANEUVERS! THE *HULK* LANDED IN THERE--WITH A GIANT *HUMANOID!* WE'VE GOT TO *HELP* HIM!

HELP *WHO?* THEY CAN *BOTH* POLISH EACH OTHER OFF FOR ALL *I* CARE!

HOWEVER, WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE LOCKED DOORS OF THE ABANDONED NAVY YARD SWING OPEN, AND THEN--

HEY! YOU WEREN'T *KIDDING!* THERE THEY *ARE!* I-I DIDN'T EVEN *KNOW*--!

THE *HUMANOID* CAN MOVE *FASTER* THAN THE HULK! HE'S STILL *PUMMELING* HIM! BUT THE HULK KEEPS *TAKING* IT!

WHY DOESN'T HE LEAP TO *SAFETY?*

THE HULK'LL *NEVER* RETREAT! HE'LL FIGHT TO THE *END!*

BUT, HE'S *GOT* TO ESCAPE THIS TIME! MAYBE *I* CAN CONVINCE HIM--!

THUMP!

JONES! COME *BACK* HERE! THERE'S NOTHING *YOU* CAN DO! *STOP,* KID--*WAIT*--!

NO! THE HULK'S *DAZED*--BATTERED--CONFUSED! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO *DO!* HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO *ADVISE* HIM--!

I CAN'T FAIL HIM *NOW!* --NOT WHEN I OWE HIM MY *LIFE!*

HULK! GET *UP!* YOU'VE *GOT* TO GET *UP!*

HUH? IT'S THE *KID*-- IT'S *RICK*--!

BUT THEN, UNABLE TO *STOP* HIMSELF IN TIME, THE SHOUTING YOUTH ENCOUNTERS *DISASTER*--!

THOK!

=UNNHHHH!=

RICK--!

AT THAT FATEFUL INSTANT, AN INSCRUTABLE *FATE* STEPS IN--AS THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF SEEING HIS FRIEND INJURED CAUSES THE WORLD'S MOST INCREDIBLE *TRANSFORMATION* TO OCCUR ONCE MORE--

I'M *CHANGING!* GETTING *WEAKER*--! WHAT'S HAP-- *WAIT!* I-I CAN *THINK* NOW!

I'M TURNING BACK TO *BRUCE BANNER!*

THEN, AS THE *HUMANOID* STANDS IDLY BY--PONDERING ITS NEXT MOVE--

RICK! ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT*, SON? WHY DID YOU RUN BETWEEN US THAT WAY?

HE'S *NOT HURT*, BANNER! MERELY STUNNED!

BRUCE! IT'S *YOU!*

TRIED TO *HELP*--TO GET YOU TO RUN *AWAY*--!

NOW THERE CAN BE *NO DOUBT!* THE HULK *ISN'T* A MONSTER--HE NEVER *WAS!* HE WAS ALWAYS *YOU!*

WHEW! I FEEL LIKE I BEEN KICKED BY A *MULE!*

MAJOR! THE *HUMANOID'S* STARTING TO *ADVANCE* TOWARDS US! WHAT'LL WE *DO*, SIR?

ALERT THE *PROTON GUN* CREW! PREPARE FOR *FIRING!*

WAIT! IT'S TOO *POWERFUL*--TOO *DANGEROUS!* THERE MAY BE A *BETTER* WAY!

TALBOT! HAVE YOUR MEN KEEP THE HUMANOID *CONFUSED*, OFF-BALANCE, FOR AS LONG AS THEY CAN!

ALL RIGHT, BANNER! BUT YOU'D BETTER COME UP WITH SOMETHING *FAST!*

I *WILL*--PROVIDED THEY HAVEN'T YET REMOVED THE *HEAVY EQUIPMENT* FROM THE YARD'S *REPAIR SHOPS!*

CRACK!

YOU *HEARD* THE MAN! *SURROUND* THE HULK-KILLER! KEEP *FIRING* AT HIM! BUT DON'T GET TOO *CLOSE!*

YOU'VE *GOT* TO DO IT, BRUCE! YOU'VE GOT TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT *I* ALREADY KNOW--THAT YOU'RE *NOT* A MENACE! YOU'RE ON THE SIDE OF *MANKIND!*

THERE'S ONLY *ONE* WAY TO STOP THE HUMANOID! HE'S NOT *ALIVE!* HE'S BASICALLY A *MACHINE!*

AND, *ANY* MACHINE CAN BE *IMMOBILIZED!*

RICK! TELL THE GENERAL TO LINE UP AS MANY *TECHNICIANS* AS HE CAN! MEN WHO KNOW THEIR JOB--AND CAN MOVE *FAST!*

I'M RIGHT *BEHIND* YOU, BLAST IT! *I'LL* GET THE MEN!

BUT, WHAT'S YOUR *PLAN?* WHAT CAN *YOU* DO WHAT ALL OUR *WEAPONS* COULDN'T?

THE HUMANOID IS *MORE* THAN A GIANT, INDESTRUCTIBLE MENACE, GENERAL! HE'S THE CREATION OF ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUSLY BRILLIANT *BRAINS* THAT EVER LIVED!

AND, THE WAY TO *FIGHT* HIM ISN'T MERELY BY BRUTE FORCE--BUT BY APPLYING SOME UNEXPECTED *COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE!*

ALL RIGHT, MISTER! YOU'LL *HAVE* YOUR CHANCE! AND, FOR *YOUR* SAKE, I HOPE IT *WORKS!*

WHILE, A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY--

SKRAK

IT'S LIKE SHOOTING INTO A SACK OF *SAND!* HE DOESN'T MEAN A *THING!*

WHATEVER BANNER'S GONNA *DO*--HE BETTER DO IT *FAST!*

LOOK OUT! HE'S GETTING READY TO *RUSH* US!

DUCK! HE'S TOSSIN' THAT HUNK'A *IRON* AT US LIKE IT'S A *PEBBLE!*

BLAM!

WHEW! IF THAT THING EVER *CONNECTED--!*

WHERE'S *BANNER?* WHAT'S HE *DOIN'* IN THERE?

AND, IN *ANSWER* TO THAT DESPERATE QUESTION--

OKAY! THIS IS WHAT I *NEED!* NOW GET THOSE TECHNICIANS *OUT* OF HERE! THE *NUMANOID'S* COMING!

THE OTHERS ARE *GONE*--BUT *I'M STAYING*, BANNER! YOU MAY *NEED* ME!

YOU *TOO!* TAKE OFF!

I'M IN *CHARGE* HERE, MISTER! I DON'T ASK *ANY* MAN TO FACE WHAT *I* WOULDN'T FACE!

THEN STAY *BEHIND* ME! I'VE GOT TO *LIFT* THIS OVER HIS HEAD!

IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!* THE THREE OF *US TOGETHER* COULDN'T EVEN *BUDGE* IT!

NO--BUT THE *HULK* CAN!

BUT YOU'RE *NOT* THE HULK ANY MORE! YOU'RE *BANNER!* HAVE YOU GONE *MAD?*

I *HOPE* SO! IT'S WHAT I'M *COUNT-ING* ON!

I'VE GOT TO GET MAD *ENOUGH*, IN THE NEXT TWO SECONDS, TO INCREASE MY *PULSE RATE--!*

IT'S *WORKING!* I CAN *FEEL* IT! STAND BACK! *BACK! BACK!*

I *KNEW*--THE SIGHT OF HIM--WOULD *DO* IT--!

NOW--IF ONLY--I CAN--*REMEMBER*--

--REMEMBER--WHAT I'M SUPPOSED--TO *DO*--!

THE *MACHINE!* YOU WANTED TO *LIFT* IT OVER HIS HEAD!

MACHINE! THAT'S *RIGHT!* MUST GET *MACHINE...!*

LOOK! HE'S *LIFTING* IT! AS THOUGH IT'S *WEIGHTLESS!*

WHATEVER *BANNER* *DID* TO IT--IT'S LOADED WITH *POWER!*

MUST *LIFT* IT--OVER HEAD--

THE HUMANOID LOOKS *CONFUSED!*--DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN *NEXT!*

HE'S *LEAPING*-- CARRYING IT *WITH* HIM!

HE'S BLASTING THE *HULK-KILLER* WITH SOME SORT OF HIGH-VOLTAGE *CURRENT!*

LLLT!!

NOW I UNDER-STAND! HE'S *SHORT-CIRCUITING* HIM!

BUT THE *FEED-BACK* WAS JUST AS *STRONG*-- AND THE *HULK* CAUGHT THE FULL BLAST!

BETTY! CAN YOU *HEAR* ME? TURN OFF THE CURRENT! *HURRY,* GIRL-- *GET THAT CURRENT OFF!*

IT'S *OVER!* THE HUMANOID IS *FINISHED*--HIS ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS ARE *DESTROYED!*

THE HULK *SAVED* US--FROM OUR OWN *FOLLY!*

HE--HE'S LYING SO *STILL!* GLENN--IS--IS HE--??

HE'S STILL *BREATHING,* BETTY! HE'S *ALIVE!*

BUT, IF HE REVERTS BACK TO *BANNER*--THEN MY CHANCES OF EVER *WINNING* YOU ARE-- FOREVER *DEAD!*

I'LL SEND FOR THE *MEDICS!* HE *MUST* PULL THRU!

TAKE OVER, MAJOR!

MEANWHILE, UNNOTICED IN ALL THE CONFUSION, ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES HAS WITNESSED THE ENTIRE TABLEAU--

SO! HE *SURVIVED* THAT FALL FROM ATOP THE BRIDGE!

AND, IF HE RECOVERS FROM *THIS,* HE'LL EMERGE A *HERO!*

BUT, NOT FOR *LONG!*

NOT AFTER *BOOMERANG* IS FINISHED WITH HIM!

AND, *THIS* TIME, I KNOW THE PERFECT, *FOOL-PROOF* WAY TO DISPOSE OF THE *HULK*--WITH NO CHANCE OF *FAILURE!*

10

ALL I NEED DO IS BIDE MY TIME--

--AND *WAIT* TO STRIKE-- WAIT UNTIL HE HAS CHANGED *BACK*--TO THE POWERLESS *BRUCE BANNER!*

HULKINUED

NEXT ISH!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND.

88 FEB

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES TO ASTONISH

"A STRANGER STRIKES FROM SPACE!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"BOOMERANG AND THE BRUTE!"

IT FINALLY HAPPENED! HAVING DEFEATED THE DEADLY *HULK-KILLER* LAST ISH, OUR JOLLY GREEN GIANT IS NOW HAILED AS A *HERO*! BUT, JUST BETWEEN US... HE'S LIABLE TO SET HERO-DOM BACK A HUNDRED YEARS! C'MON, LET'S GRAB A PIECE OF THE ACTION...!

STAY BACK! BACK! NOBODY CROWDS THE *HULK!*

I DON'T *LIKE* IT! HE'S TOO *UNPREDICTABLE!* *ANYTHING* CAN HAPPEN!

I WAS AFRAID THE FALL HAD... *KILLED* HIM! BUT... THANK HEAVEN... HE'S ALL RIGHT!

HOW CAN SHE STILL *LOVE* BRUCE BANNER ...KNOWING HE'S ALSO... THE *HULK?*

GET THOSE *BARRIERS* UP! KEEP THE *CROWD* BACK!

C'MON, BIG MAN... *SMILE!* YOU DON'T WANNA *SCARE* OUR READERS, DO YOU?

THAT'S IT! JUST A LITTLE *CLOSER!* YOU'RE LIABLE TO CROWD THE *ELECTION* RIGHT OFF THE FRONT PAGE!

HULKAMOROUS SCRIPT BY:
STAN (The Man) LEE
HULKITUDINOUS ART BY:
GIL (Sugar) KANE
HULKIFYING LETTERING BY:
SAMMY (Dozin) ROSEN

LIGHTS BLINDING HULK! CAN'T SEE!.. GO...OR HULK SMASH!

FTLASHH!

OKAY, PAL..OKAY! YOU SURE DON'T HAVETA TELL ME TWICE!

GLEN...WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO-HIM NOW? HOW DO WE MAKE HIM TURN BACK TO BRUCE BANNER?

TOO MUCH NOISE! TOO MANY PEOPLE!

IT'S ANYBODY'S GUESS, BETTY! NO ONE KNOWS!

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE! HE MIGHT DO ANYTHING!

YOU MUSTN'T MIND ALL THIS! YOU'RE A HERO NOW! YOU WON'T BE HOUNDED ANYMORE!

EVERYONE LOOKS.. EVERYONE CROWDS CLOSER!

KEEP AWAY FROM HULK!

BETTY! BE CARE-FUL! HE ISN'T BRUCE BANNER NOW!

HE'D NEVER HURT ME... I KNOW IT!

AS THE EXCITED CROWD CONTINUES TO MILL AROUND THE MOST INCREDIBLE LIVING MORTAL ON EARTH, THE EPOCH-MAKING SCENE IS TELEVISED THROUGHOUT THE NATION, WHERE IT IS VIEWED WITH RAPT FASCINATION BY ALL...

HE'S PROVEN HIMSELF AT LAST!

NOW, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT THE HULK WAS NEVER A THREAT TO AMERICA'S SECURITY!

THE POOR, LUMBERING BRUTE! HE WAS GUILTY ONLY OF BEING FEARED.. AND MIS-UNDERSTOOD!

AND, WITHIN THAT MONSTROUS BODY, THE BRILLIANT BRAIN OF OUR GREATEST ATOMIC SCIENTIST IS HELD PRISONER!

WE MUST SPARE NO EFFORT TO FREE HIM...TO MAKE DR. BRUCE BANNER NORMAL ONCE AGAIN!

I WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GENERAL ROSS! YES, THUNDER-BOLT ROSS... IN CHARGE OF OPERATION HULK...

MEANWHILE, BACK IN NEW YORK...

THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED BOOMERANG YET, THANKS TO THE CONCEALING SHADOWS UP HERE!

THERE'S STILL TIME FOR ME TO FIND A WAY TO DESTROY THE HULK!

ONE OF MY SMALL, EXPLOSIVE DISCS WILL DO THE TRICK!

ALL I NEED DO IS ANGER HIM...MAKE HIM GO ON A RAMPAGE AGAIN!

=ARGHHN!=

SKLAST!

FTLASHH!

MEN TRY TO *HURT* HULK...TRY TO *ATTACK* WITHOUT WARNING!

NO ONE ATTACKS THE *HULK!*...NOW HULK FIGHTS *BACK!*

IT *WORKED!* NO ONE WILL SUSPECT THAT *BOOMERANG* IS RESPONSIBLE!

HAH! RUN! RUN FROM THE ANGER... OF...THE *HULK!*

NEWS TV

EVERYONE *BACK! HURRY!* GET *OFF THE STREETS!*

HE'S GONE *MAD!* HE'S TRYING TO KILL US *ALL!*

SOMETHING'S *WRONG!* HE WOULDN'T GO *BERSERK* THAT WAY FOR NO REASON!

HE NEEDS *HELP!* I'VE GOT TO *GO* TO HIM!

DON'T BE A *FOOL!..COME BACK!* I WON'T *LET* YOU!

TALBOT! DISPERSE THE CROWDS! GET MY *DAUGHTER* OUT OF THERE!

'B' COMPANY! BATTLE POSITIONS! SURROUND THE HULK! ON THE *DOUBLE!*

MOVE, YOU LEAD-HEADS! IF HE ISN'T *RESTRAINED,* HE COULD TEAR THIS WHOLE BLASTED *NEIGHBORHOOD* DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!

I WANT *EVERY* AVAILABLE MAN AT HIS *POST!*

GET THOSE *CIVILIANS* OFF THE STREET!

BUT, ONE SHARP-EYED YOUTH HAS SPOTTED THE SINISTER FIGURE LURKING ATOP THE SHADOWY LEDGE..

IT'S *BOOMERANG!*

HE MUST HAVE STEAMED UP THE HULK!

GENERAL! LISTEN TO ME! IT ISN'T THE *HULK* YOU'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT! THERE'S A *GREATER* DANGER HERE AMONG US! LET ME *TELL* YOU...!

BLAST IT, BOY! LET GO OF MY ARM! I'VE GOT THE SAFETY OF A *CITY* TO WORRY ABOUT! TAKE *COVER* SOMEWHERE! THAT'S AN *ORDER!*

BUT..YOU'VE GOT TO *LISTEN!*

I LISTEN TO *NOTHING*... WHILE THAT MONSTER STILL *LIVES!*

CAN'T *REASON* WITH HIM! BUT, I'VE GOT TO DO *SOMETHING!*

MY ONLY CHANCE IS THE HULK *HIMSELF!* IF I CAN GET *HIM* TO UNDERSTAND...!

HULK! IT'S *ME*...RICK! I WANNA *HELP* YOU!

YOU'VE GOTTA *CALM DOWN*... SHOW THEM YOU'RE NOT *DANGEROUS!* FOR YOUR *OWN* SAKE!

IF YOU *DON'T,* YOU'LL BE *HUNTED* AGAIN!

YOU WON'T HAVE A *CHANCE!* THEY'LL *GET* YOU, SOONER OR LATER!

NOBODY SCARES THE HULK! PUNY SOLDIERS CAN'T HURT ME!

GUNS! ALL AROUND ME! I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT HULK THINKS OF GUNS!

BUT..YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND..!

THIS WAS HIS CHANCE TO BE HELPED! IF HE BLOWS IT NOW--!

KEEP THOSE BAZOOKAS RAINED ON HIM! IF HE MAKES ONE WRONG MOVE... FIRE!

YOU MAY NOT SMASH HIM, BUT YOU'LL SURE SLOW HIM DOWN UNTIL THE ARTILLERY GETS HERE!

NO SWEAT, SIR! HE WON'T GET PAST US!

BUT THEN, THE MIGHTIEST MORTAL ARM ON EARTH SMASHES THE PAVEMENT BELOW WITH THE SENSES-STAGGERING IMPACT OF AN A-BOMB..!

THROOOOM!

AND, BEFORE THE STARTLED TROOPS CAN RETRIEVE THEIR FALLEN WEAPONS...

HULK THROUGH LISTENING...!

NOBODY CAN STOP HULK!

HULK.. DON'T.. OOOH!

..NOBODY!

IT WORKED! BY ANGERING HIM, I TURNED HIM INTO AN OUTCAST AGAIN!

NOW I CAN ATTACK HIM WITH IMPUNITY! AND, AFTER I'VE DES-TROYED HIM, I'LL BE ACCLAIMED A HERO!

LEAP, YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE! THERE'S NO PLACE YOU CAN GO WHERE BOOMERANG CAN'T FOLLOW!

HE GOT *AWAY!* BUT, I'LL *FIND* HIM! I'LL TRACK HIM DOWN IF IT TAKES THE REST OF MY *LIFE! NOBODY* CAN DEFY THE ARMY... THE LAW..

BUT, *DAD!* HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S *DOING!* YOU CAN'T PUNISH *BRUCE BANNER* FOR THE DEEDS OF THE *HULK!*

HOW DO WE KNOW BANNER *ISN'T* RESPONSIBLE, BETTY?

WE KNOW SO LITTLE *ABOUT* THE HULK! WHAT IF BANNER *IS* IN CONTROL OF HIM... ALL THE TIME?

GENERAL ROSS! I HAVE AN URGENT DISPATCH FOR YOU... FROM *WASHINGTON!*

A *WHITE HOUSE COURIER!* WHAT DOES *THIS* MEAN?

DON'T JUST *SIT* THERE, MAN! LET ME *HAVE* IT!

SKREEEEEE

IT'S CLASSIFIED *TOP PRIORITY*, SIR! FOR YOUR *IMMEDIATE ATTENTION!*

IT CONCERNS THE *HULK!*

I *SUSPECTED* AS MUCH!

FROM: LBJ.
TO: GENERAL ROSS, COMMANDING OFFICER
RE: HULK

IF, IN YOUR OPINION, THE HULK IS NO LONGER A MENACE, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO GRANT HIM FULL AND IMMEDIATE AMNESTY, CLEARING HIM OF ALL GUILT, OR SUSPICION OF SAME.
BY EXECUTIVE ORDER

SO... IT'S UP TO *ME!* IF IN *MY* OPINION, THE HULK IS NO LONGER A MENACE...!

JUST A SHORT *HALF HOUR* AGO, MY ANSWER MIGHT HAVE BEEN *DIFFERENT!* BUT, NOW...

AND, EVEN AS THE *PARDON* WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIS FLOATS IRONICALLY TO THE GROUND, A *NEW* DANGER ARISES TO THREATEN THE SORELY-HARASSED GREEN GIANT...

AND *NOW*, HULK.. IT WILL BE JUST *YOU* AND *ME*...

BUT, BEFORE THE DAY IS ENDED, IT WILL BE ONLY... *ME!*

SECONDS LATER, AS THE INCREDIBLE RAMPAGER HEARS THE MUFFLED SOUND OF **BOOMERANG'S** POWERFUL ROCKET-JET BOOTS---

SOMEONE **FOLLOWING..!**

BOOMERANG! HULK'S **ENEMY!** TRIED TO **KILL** LAST TIME WE MET!

HE **SEES** ME! **GOOD!**

IF YOU KNOW ANY BEDTIME PRAYERS, UGLY... BETTER START MUMBLING THEM **NOW!** HERE'S WHERE I POLISH YOU OFF---FOR **GOOD!**

YOU! YOU DARE THREATEN **HULK..?!!**

NOTHING CAN ESCAPE! HULK CAN LEAP **ANYWHERE!**

IT'S ALMOST **TOO EASY!** I'VE JUST GOTTA STAY FAR ENOUGH **AHEAD** TO LEAD HIM WHERE I **WANT** 'IM!

THIS IS **IT!** NOW TO START THE FESTIVITIES OFF WITH A BOUNCY LITTLE **BLAST DISC..!**

THIK

HERE'S A LITTLE **WELCOME,** HULK---FROM OL' BOOMY TO **YOU!**

BTAM!

ROCKS! FALLING DOWN... ON **TOP** OF ME!

AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO FEEL **NEGLECTED!**

THAKA THOOM!

NO FALLING ROCKS CAN HURT **HULK!**

NOT BAD, BRAINLESS! BUT NOW... SUPPOSE YOU CHEW ON *THIS* FOR A WHILE!

DON'T FORGET, I'VE GOT ENOUGH *DISCS* TO KEEP YOU HOPPING FOR A *WEEK!*

FTOOM!

USELESS *EXPLOSIONS* CAN'T HURT *HULK!*

MAYBE THE *EXPLOSION* CAN'T HURT YOU...

BUT, WHAT ABOUT THE *LANDSLIDE* IT CAUSES?

TOO BAD YOU WEREN'T *SMART* ENOUGH TO SEE WHAT I WAS UP TO!

RRRUMBBBLE!

HAPPY LANDING, YOU DULL-WITTED BUFFOON!

YOU THINK HULK IS *BEATEN..?*

WELL, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL YOU A BIG *WINNER!*

WHAT THE..?!!

NOW... IT'S *MY* TURN!

NOT *YET,* BIG MAN!

I BROUGHT A *WEAPON* WHICH CAN EVEN OVER-COME STRENGTH LIKE *YOURS..!*

THIS IS MY *ACE-IN-THE-HOLE..!*

A SPECIAL DISC CONTAINING *TRANQUILIZER GAS!*

NO!

IT'S *POTENT* ENOUGH TO PUT A *BULL ELEPHANT* TO SLEEP!

HEAD..FEELS *TIRED!* EYES.. HEAVY..HARD TO..KEEP OPEN..!

HANDS *NUMB..* WEAK..TIRED... *TIRED..!*

AND NOW...THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR! THE MOMENT WHEN I CAN *BATTER YOU* AT WILL!

FALL, BLAST YOU! *FALL!* WHAT'S HOLDING YOU *UP?* WHY DON'T YOU HELPLESSLY *CRUMBLE?*

BOK!

STROP!

TIRED..! CAN'T... STAY AWAKE! BUT..CAN *STILL* BRUSH AWAY... PUNY TALKING *FLEA!*

IT'S NO USE! HE'S *TOO* POWERFUL!

NOTHING SHORT OF *DEATH* CAN EVER REALLY *STOP* HIM!

AND, *THAT* CAN BE ARRANGED, ALSO... *NOW*... WHILE HE'S *TRANQUILIZED!*

MUSTN'T FALL ASLEEP! NOT YET...NOT *YET*...!

ALL I NEED DO IS REACH THE *DAM* AT THE MOUTH OF THE CANYON...

IF THE CONCRETE WALL SHOULD BE *SHATTERED*... NOTHING COULD REMAIN *ALIVE* IN THE VALLEY BELOW!

RRRRRRR

NOTHING!... NOT EVEN... THE *HULK!*

FTAMM!

I DID IT! NOTHING CAN SAVE HIM NOW!

SHOOO

BUT THEN, ANOTHER STARTLING DEVELOPMENT OCCURS...AS A RESULT OF THE HULK'S BECOMING TRANQUIL-IZED...

WHAT'S HAPPENING?? I..I'M GROWING WEAKER... CHANGING..!

TURNING BACK... TO THE HELPLESS BRUCE BANNER!

HULK! MY ROCKET BOOTS...THEY WERE SHATTERED WHEN I HIT THE BOULDERS!

MY LEG... IT'S BROKEN! CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE NOW!

THE DAM IS BREACHED... FLOOD WATERS POURING IN! I'LL BE DROWNED!

YOU CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN! YOU..YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE ME! ONLY YOU, CAN DO IT...!

MOVING MORE THROUGH INSTINCT THAN CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, THE TORTURED GREEN-SKINNED GIANT SEIZES THE MAN WHO HAD TRIED TO DESTROY HIM, AND...

HAVEN'T FINISHED CHANGING YET! MAYBE STILL STRONG ENOUGH TO REACH MOUNTAIN TOP..!

MADE IT! BUT...GETTING WEAKER... THE CHANGE IS SPEEDING UP...

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER! DON'T LET ME GO..DON'T..

TRY...TO REACH FOR TOP! CAN'T HOLD ON ANY LONGER! YOU'RE.. TOO HEAVY..!

HURRY! REACH..!

I..DON'T WANT TO LET GO..BUT..TOO MUCH STRAIN... NOT HULK ANY MORE...UNNHHH..

NO! NO!

NO

IF ONLY..HE HADN'T TRANQUILIZED ME! IF..I HAD REMAINED... THE HULK...

..I WOULD HAVE BEEN.. ABLE TO..SAVE HIM..!

HULK-INUED NEXT ISH!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 89 MAR

"...THEN THERE SHALL COME A STRANGER!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"...THEN, THERE SHALL COME A STRANGER!"

LAST ISH, WE SAW OUR MAGNIFICENT, MINT-COLORED MONSTER DEFEAT THE BOMBASTIC **BOOMERANG!**

BUT, IN SO DOING, OL' GREEN SKIN WAS TRANSFORMED ONCE MORE INTO HIS NORMAL IDENTITY ---THAT OF THE BRILLIANT ATOMIC SCIENTIST, **BRUCE BANNER!**

NOW, LET'S **JOIN** THE TRAGIC DR. BANNER AS HE LIES EXHAUSTED UPON A LONELY MOUNTAIN TOP... LITTLE DREAMING THAT HE'S JUST SECONDS AWAY FROM MEETING THE MOST **STARTLING** FOE HE'S EVER FACED...

HANDLED WITH HULKITUDE BY
Stan (THE MAN) LEE and Gil (SUGAR) KANE
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

AS BANNER SINKS INTO A DEEP, FITFUL SLEEP, A SHIMMERING, OMINOUS **GLOW** SEEMS TO APPEAR IN THE SKY ABOVE HIM ---

---A GLOW WHICH GROWS BRIGHTER.. AND **BRIGHTER**.. UNTIL ---

---ITS VERY **LUMINESCENCE** SEEMS TO TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO WAVES OF PULSATING **ENERGY** AS IT HOVERS SILENTLY OVER THE STILL FIGURE...

AND THEN... AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD APPEARED..THE GLEAMING APPARITION **VANISHES**, AS A DEEP, UNEARTHLY **VOICE** RINGS OUT...

I HAVE **FOUND** THE ONE I SEEK!

THE VOICE OF ... HE WHO CALLS HIMSELF ... THE **STRANGER** ... THAT MYSTERIOUS EMISSARY FROM A FAR, FAR DISTANT GALAXY..!*

RISE, BRUCE BANNER!! EVEN THOUGH **ASLEEP,** YOU CANNOT RESIST MY **COMMAND!**

*THE **STRANGER** ... WHOSE POWER IS VIRTUALLY BEYOND MORTAL KEN--HAS PREVIOUSLY APPEARED IN THE **X-MEN,** #s 11 AND 18..AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW! --- *STRAIGHTFORWARD STAN.*

FROM A VANTAGE POINT IN DEEPEST SPACE I HAVE BEEN *STUDYING* THE PRIMITIVE PLANET *EARTH*...

AND I LIKE *NOT* WHAT I HAVE SEEN!

MAN IS TOO CONSUMED WITH *GREED*, AND WITH *HATRED* FOR HIS FELLOW MORTALS!

OBSESSED WITH *WAR*... AND POSSESSING *ATOMIC POWER* ...EARTH IS TOO GREAT A *DANGER* TO THE SPRAWLING *UNIVERSE!*

BUT, I *FORGET!* MY WORDS DO FALL UPON *DEAF EARS!*

THEREFORE, BRUCE BANNER...I COMMAND YOU TO... *WAKEN!*

BUT, REMAIN *IMMOBILE!* YOU MAY NOT MOVE..YOU MAY NOT SPEAK!

THOUGH YOU SHALL KNOW ME ONLY AS A *STRANGER*... I HAVE LEARNED OF YOUR *POWER*... THE POWER TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF INTO... THE *HULK!*

YOU SHALL *USE* THAT POWER... IN *MY* BEHALF!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* TO PERFORM HIS *GREATEST* FEAT OF STRENGTH...HIS MOST MONUMENTAL *TASK!*

HE MUST GO ON A *RAMPAGE*.. MORE DEADLY... MORE *DESTRUCTIVE* THAN EVER BEFORE!

FOR, IT IS MY INTENTION TO *CLEANSE* THE EARTH...TO *PURIFY* THIS TORTURED PLANET...IN THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE...

CIVILIZATION...AS YOU NOW KNOW IT...MUST BE *OBLITERATED!* THE WORKS OF MAN...INDEED, *MAN* HIMSELF, MUST BE ALL BUT *WIPED OUT!*

ONLY *THEN*... WITH THE PLANET SCOURED *CLEAN*...SCOURGED OF THE SEEDS OF *EVIL*... CAN A NEW DAY DAWN!

THEN, THESE HUMANS WHO HAVE *SURVIVED* THE COMING HOLOCAUST, SHALL BUILD A *BETTER* WORLD... UNDER *MY* COMMAND!

BUT, I SENSE YOUR *THOUGHT!* YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE *MILLIONS* WHO MUST PERISH!

THAT CAN BE OF *NO* CONCERN TO *ME!* HUMAN LIFE MEANS *NOTHING* TO THE *STRANGER!*

IF ALL THE *SOLAR SYSTEM* MUST BE DESTROYED TO BRING *PEACE* TO THE UNIVERSE, I WOULD NOT SHED A SINGLE *TEAR* AT ITS PASSING!

FOR I AM THE *STRANGER!* I WALK EVER *ALONE!*

WHAT IS *THIS?* I SENSE TOTAL *LOATHING* WITHIN YOU! YOU CONSIDER ME A *MENACE!*

WITLESS MORTAL! CAN YOU NOT SEE I AM MANKIND'S *BENEFACTOR?*

WHAT DOES IT *MATTER* IF MOST OF HUMANITY *PERISHES?* I SHALL BUILD A *BETTER* WORLD OUT OF THE ASHES! I SHALL *HELP* YOU PITIFUL HUMANS.. IF I HAVE TO TURN ALL OF *EARTH* INTO A FIERY *INFERNO* TO *DO* IT!

AND, AS FOR *YOU*...

WHEN YOU ARE TRANSFORMED ONCE AGAIN INTO THE RAMPAGING *HULK,* IT IS *YOU* WHO SHALL DO MY HANDIWORK!

YES! FOLLOWING *MY* ORDERS, THE SUPER-POWERFUL, SUPER-HUMAN *HULK* SHALL HELP TO *RID THE EARTH* OF THE UNDESERVING HUMAN RACE!

AND, ON THAT CHEERY NOTE, WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE *STRANGER* AND HIS ONE-MAN CAPTIVE AUDIENCE, AS WE MAKE A QUICK VISIT TO *MISSILE COMMAND HQ,* WHERE WE FIND...

I MUST SEE *GENERAL ROSS!*

NOT *YET,* BETTY! BUT, WE'LL *FIND* HIM... DON'T YOU *WORRY!*

OH.. *THERE* HE IS!

AND WHEN WE *DO*... HE WON'T ESCAPE US *AGAIN!*

GLEN! IS THERE ANY *NEWS?* HAVE YOU HAD ANY WORD ABOUT... THE *HULK?*

WHERE IN BLAZES ARE THOSE *CHARTS AND MAPS* I ASKED FOR?!! CAN'T ANYONE AROUND HERE... *OH!*

HERE THEY ARE!

DAD, WHEN YOU *FIND* HIM --- HOW WILL YOU GET HIM BACK UNDER *CONTROL*... WITHOUT HAVING TO ...*INJURE* HIM?

INJURE HIM? USE YOUR *HEAD,* GIRL! WE'LL WIPE HIM OFF THE FACE OF THE *EARTH* IF WE HAVE TO!

IT'S THE *HULK* WE'RE TALKING ABOUT... NOT *MARY POPPINS!*

DO YOU *READ* ME, GIRL?

NO! YOU CAN'T *MEAN* IT! HAVE YOU *FORGOTTEN..?*

YOU *CAN'T* DESTROY THE HULK... NOT WITHOUT DESTROYING *BRUCE BANNER,* AS WELL!

I WON'T *LISTEN* TO ANY MORE!

I WON'T BE *REMINDED* THAT YOU'RE STILL IN *LOVE* WITH THAT BLASTED *FREAK!*

MAJOR TALBOT! SEE MY DAUGHTER BACK TO HER QUARTERS!

YES, SIR!

SHE *DOES* STILL LOVE BANNER! IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING!

AT THAT MOMENT, A STERN, CLIPPED *VOICE* BARKS OUT THROUGH THE NEARBY *VIDI-COM...*

UNIT FOUR REPORTING, SIR! *INTRUDER* FOUND HIDING ON BASE! HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN *LOOKING* FOR YOU!

I *WAS* LOOKING FOR YOU, GENERAL! YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME *HELP* YOU FIND THE *HULK!*

IT'S *RICK JONES*.. BRUCE BANNER'S TEEN-AGE *FRIEND!*

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S THE NEPHEW OF *GODZILLA!*

HOLD HIM, LIEUTENANT! I'LL BE RIGHT *THERE!*

LET'S *GO!*

I'VE JUST ABOUT *HAD* IT WITH THAT BRAT'S *INTERFERENCE!*

THIS IS AN *ARMY BASE*...NOT A CHICKEN-SCRATCHIN' *PLAYGROUND!*

BUT, DAD...MAYBE THE BOY HAS SOME *INFORMATION* FOR YOU!

AFTER *ALL*, GENERAL.. RICK JONES *IS* THE ONLY HUMAN BEING THE *HULK* SEEMS TO TRUST!

WHAT'S THE *MATTER* WITH ME? AM I GETTING *SOFT?*

WHO CARES ABOUT THE *KID*, ANYWAY?

WHY MUST WE ALWAYS *HOUND* THE HULK?

BECAUSE HE'S A BLASTED *MENACE*.. *THAT'S* WHY!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO *DESTROY THE HULK*---ONCE AND FOR ALL!

GENERAL! I WAS *HOPIN'* YOU'D COME! YOU'VE GOTTA *LISTEN* TO ME --!

NO *TRICKS*, KID! I'LL BE *WATCHIN'* YOU!

AT EASE, JONES... I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO *ANYONE!*

ALL RIGHT, LIEUTENANT, YOU CAN *RELEASE* HIM NOW! HE'S NOT *MAO TSE TUNG!*

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, *OUT* WITH IT!

FOR PETE'S *SAKE!* I WAS JUST TRYIN' TO *HELP*---!

LOOK... I CAN'T *FIND* THE HULK! HE MIGHT BE *ANYWHERE!*

BUT YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING *GOIN'* FOR YOU... PLANES, MEN, VEHICLES... *EVERYTHING!*

YOU'LL TRACK HIM DOWN *SOONER OR LATER!* AND WHEN YOU *DO*...THERE'LL BE *FIGHTIN'*---LOTS OF YOUR TROOPS'LL BE *HURT*...

BUT, YOU'VE GOT THE *MISSILES*---THE ATOMIC WARHEADS---SO IT'S A SAFE BET YOU'LL *FINISH* THE HULK...'CAUSE HE'LL NEVER *SURRENDER!*

OKAY! OKAY! WE *KNOW* ALL THAT! WHAT'S THE *POINT?*

THIS...I DON'T WANT THE HULK *KILLED!*

LOOK, KID... I'M NO BLASTED *ASSASSIN!* I WON'T EVEN STEP ON AN *ANT HILL* IF I CAN HELP IT!

AND I *KNOW* THAT THE HULK SAVED YOUR *LIFE* IN THE PAST...AND YOU FEEL *GRATEFUL* TO HIM...

BUT, DON'TCHA *SEE?* HE'S *NOT* A KILLER! ALL HE WANTS IS TO BE LET *ALONE!* IF I CAN JUST GET TO 'IM *FIRST*, I CAN *REASON* WITH 'IM! I *KNOW* I CAN!

BUT, AS LONG AS HE LIVES, OUR *SECURITY* IS THREATENED! AND IT'S MY JOB TO *PROTECT* THAT SECURITY!

REASON WITH THE *HULK?!!*

I'M NOT PROMISING *ANYTHING*... BUT YOU CAN STAY *WITH* US...UNTIL WE *FIND* HIM!

AFTER *THAT*... IT'S *ANYBODY'S* GUESS! WE'LL JUST PLAY IT BY EAR AND SEE WHAT *HAPPENS!*

YOU CAN GIVE THE BOY *CLEARANCE*, LIEUTENANT! *I'LL* TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY!

YES *SIR*, GENERAL!

BUT, WE'VE ALL SEEN THE HULK---IN HIS *RAGE!* WE ALL KNOW HOW *POWERFUL* HE IS!

UNLESS YOU FIND HIM *FIRST*...THE CHANCES ARE WE'LL HAVE *FINISHED* HIM BY THE TIME YOU CAN *GET* THERE!

GOSH, MISS ROSS---IF ONLY I *COULD* REACH HIM FIRST! BUT... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO *LOOK!*

RICK---YOU'RE HIS ONLY *HOPE!* IF DAD'S MISSILE-CARRYING TASK FORCE ATTACKS HIM, HE WON'T HAVE A *CHANCE!*

AND, IF THE *HULK* DIES.. THEN *BRUCE BANNER* DIES---TOO!

AND NOW, JUST WHEN IT SEEMS THAT THINGS CAN'T GET ANY MORE ***DEPRESSING,*** LET'S RETURN TO OUR LONELY LITTLE MOUNTAIN TOP AGAIN, WHERE--TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE--WE STILL FIND--

IT IS THE ***HULK*** WHO WILL SOFTEN MANKIND FOR ME--AND GET HUMANITY ***READY*** FOR MY FINAL ASSAULT!

I INTEND TO SWEEP THIS PLANET ***CLEAN***--AND THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT SHALL BE MY ***SCYTHE!***

UTILIZING THE HULK'S VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS NATURAL ***STRENGTH,*** YOU WILL DESTROY BRIDGES, DAMS, MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS--!

IN SHORT, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT MANKIND ***NEEDS*** TO SUSTAIN LIFE AND SAFETY FOR THE MASSES!

AND, I MUST BE ***CERTAIN*** THAT YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS ***IMPLICITY!***

THUS, BY MEANS OF A SCIENCE WHICH MANKIND CANNOT EVEN ***CONCEIVE*** OF, I CAUSE AN ***INTER-SPACIAL DIMENSION WARP*** TO APPEAR BETWEEN ***YOUR*** GALAXY --AND ***MINE***--!

BEHOLD! BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES I HAVE TRANSPORTED A ***MACHINE*** OVER A DISTANCE SO GREAT IT DEFIES DESCRIPTION!

A MACHINE WHICH CAN ***REPLENISH*** MY OWN NATURAL POWERS--WHICH CAN MAKE MY ***WILL*** SO IRRESISTIBLE THAT YOU ***MUST*** OBEY IT!

PREPARE YOURSELF, BRUCE BANNER! SOON YOU SHALL BE MY HELPLESS ***SLAVE***--YOU SHALL BE MANKIND'S ***DESTROYER!***

BUT, THOUGH HE IS UNABLE TO MOVE--UNABLE TO SPEAK--THE *PULSE RATE* OF DR. BANNER INCREASES UNTIL IT REACHES THE *CRITICAL POINT*--

--THE POINT WHICH TRIGGERS THE MOST AMAZING PHYSICAL *TRANSFORMATION* EVER ENCOUNTERED WITHIN RECORDED HISTORY--

--THE TRANSFORMATION OF DR. *BRUCE BANNER* INTO THE MONSTROUS, RAMPAGING, GREEN-SKINNED *INCREDIBLE HULK!*

NOTHING STOPS HULK FROM *MOVING!! NO ONE* GIVES *ORDERS* TO HULK!!

AHH! YOU HAVE ASSUMED YOUR *OTHER* IDENTITY--JUST AS I *WISHED* YOU TO!

YOUR *STRENGTH* IS TRULY ALL I *WISHED* IT TO BE!

NONE BUT *YOU* COULD USE SHEER, NAKED *POWER* TO VIOLATE MY COMMAND TO REMAIN *MOTIONLESS!*

AND NOW, THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO *FULFILL* YOUR AWESOME MISSION!

YOU TRY TO MAKE SLAVE OF *HULK?*

EXCELLENT! *EXCELLENT!* THAT BLAZING *RAGE*--THAT LIVID, SEETHING *FURY*--ARE *PERFECT* FOR MY PURPOSES!

HULK *KILL--!*

VERY WELL--YOUR PRIMITIVE EXHIBITION HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE! BUT NOW, *ENOUGH!* I AM NO LONGER AMUSED!

THOOM!

HOWEVER, IF YOU *PERSIST* IN COURTING DISASTER BY ATTACKING *ME--*

I HAVE ONLY TO *REINFORCE* MY POWER IN THE RAYS OF MY OMNIPOTENT *MACHINE!*

AND THEN--

I PUT AN *END* TO THIS FUTILE TABLEAU--MERELY BY *WILLING* YOU TO HURTLE BACK--UNTIL YOU ARE HELPLESSLY *IMBEDDED* IN YONDER ROCKY HILLSIDE!

SPROK

WWOW

KRAK!!!

NOBODY MAKES HULK *HELPLESS!* NO *ROCKS* CAN HOLD HULK BACK!

AHH! NOW MORE THAN EVER, DO I REALIZE WHAT A PERFECT *CHOICE* I HAVE MADE!

YOU WILL *WREAK HAVOC* UPON MANKIND AS *EFFORTLESSLY* AS I ANTICIPATED!

FOR, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT *NO FORCE ON EARTH* CAN STOP YOU!

YOU CAN'T STOP ME-- EITHER!

ALAS, MY SUPER-POWERED LACKEY, YOU ARE *WRONG!*

THE POWER AT *MY* COMMAND IS *NOT* OF THE PUNY *EARTH!*

THE *RAYS* WHICH ENGULF YOU CONTAIN *ENERGY ENOUGH* TO CHANGE THE ORBIT OF A *PLANET!*

NOTHING STOPS *HULK!*

NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH BESTIAL POWER-- SUCH INHUMAN RESOLVE!

IT WOULD PLEASE ME TO REMAIN, AND STUDY YOU AT FAR GREATER LENGTH--BUT THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS-- IN DISTANT GALAXIES-- WHICH NOW CONCERN ME!

THEREFORE--IT IS WITH THE GREATEST RELUCTANCE--THAT I INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF INTRASPACIAL ENERGY WHICH SURROUNDS YOU!

ARGHH!

NOW-- RISE!

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO WILL YOU YOUR IRREVOCABLE INSTRUCTIONS!

YOU HATE ALL OF MANKIND! YOU EXIST FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE--TO SMASH OUT AND DESTROY!

YOU HAVE NO OTHER PURPOSE-- NO OTHER GOAL-- BUT DESTRUCTION!

NOTHING MAY CHANGE THE HATRED IN YOUR HEART!

NOTHING MAY DAMPEN THE FLAMING INFERNO OF RAGE THAT SMOLDERS IN YOUR SOUL!

NOTHING!

NOW GO! FOR I AM THE WILL--AND YOU ARE THE WAY!!

SO SPEAKS THE STRANGER!

HULK GOES! HULK SMASHES! HULK DESTROYS!

AND SO, THE PROLOGUE IS ENDED! SOON, THE CURTAIN WILL RISE ON ACT ONE--

A PITY I SHALL NOT BE HERE TO WITNESS IT--

BUT, THE STAGE IS SET-- AND THE PLAY HAS BEGUN!

ALAS, POOR EARTH-- I PITY YOU!

NEXT:

THE OTHER HULK!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND | 90 APR

TALES TO ASTONISH

FROM THE GOLDEN **PAST** COMES THE MENACE OF... **BYRRAH!**

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"THE ABOMINATION!"

HULK MUST SMASH... MUST DESTROY.. EVERYTHING!

AN HEROIC, HULKISH HANDIWORK, BY:
STAN (The Man) AND GIL (Sugar Lips)
LEE KANE
LETTERED BY SWINGIN' SAMMY ROSEN

RRRAA

IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED!
OUR GRUMBLING GREEN GIANT HAS FINALLY GONE BERSERK!

AND JUST WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE ABOMINATION! C'MON--LET'S GO...!

GRIMLY WATCHING THE ENTIRE TITANIC TABLEAU IS THE ONE *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THE HULK'S RAMPAGE ...THE UNEARTHLY, SUPREMELY-POWERFUL *STRANGER* --!

THE *HUMAN RACE* HAS PROVEN ITSELF *UNFIT* TO RULE THIS PLANET! THEREFORE, EARTH MUST BE *CLEANSED* OF MANKIND!

BY AFFECTING THE HULK'S PRIMITIVE *BRAIN*, I HAVE MADE HIM THE AGENT OF MY *WILL!*

HE WILL BE THE *SCYTHE* WITH WHICH I SWEEP THE CONTI-NENTS *CLEAN!*

NOW, *OTHER* MATTERS IN FAR-DISTANT GALAXIES REQUIRE MY PRESENCE!

BUT, WHEN I *RETURN*, THE HULK'S *STRENGTH* SHALL HAVE SERVED ME WELL!

BY DESTROYING VITAL INSTALLATIONS WHEREVER HE FINDS THEM, HE WILL HAVE *SOFTENED* HUMANITY UP--- FOR THE KILL!

BUT, ALTHOUGH UNABLE TO THINK, OR REASON FOR HIMSELF, SOME HALF-BURIED *INSTINCT* LEADS THE GREEN TITAN TOWARDS A DISTANT MISSILE BASE ---

THOOM!

MUST SMASH EVERYTHING I *SEE*..EVERY-WHERE!!

MUST DESTROY *WEAPONS*... SO PUNY MEN CAN'T FIGHT *BACK!*

THEN, IN A SERIES OF THE MOST MONUMENTAL, DISTANCE-DEVOURING *LEAPS* EVER RECORDED, HE REACHES HIS DESTINATION AT *LAST*---MOVING TOO FAST ...TOO LOW... TO BE DETECTED BY THE EARLY-WARNING *RADAR*--!

MIGHTIEST WEAPONS OF *ALL* DOWN BELOW!!

MUST *FIND* THEM!! MUST WRECK MOST *POWER-FUL* ONES FIRST!

BUT... WHICH IS.. *WHICH?*

WITHOUT WARNING, THE SUDDEN STRAIN OF TRYING TO *THINK* CAUSES AN UNEXPECTED REACTION ---

MY *HEAD*... SPINNING! GETTING *WEAK!* STARTING TO *FALL!*

SOMETHING *HAPPENING* TO HULK!! BUT --- *WHAT*..??

SECONDS LATER, AS HIS BODY GROWS *SMALLER*, THE CLOUDED BRAIN BEGINS TO *CLEAR* --- UNTIL ---

I'M TURNING INTO *BRUCE BANNER* ONCE MORE!

MUST *LAND*... QUICKLY... WHILE I STILL RETAIN *SOME* OF THE HULK'S STRENGTH---TO CUSHION THE SKY-HIGH *FALL!*

AND THEN, THE ONE THING WHICH EVEN THE *STRANGER* HADN'T ANTICIPATED, OCCURS..

MY HEAD IS *CLEAR* NOW! I REMEMBER *EVERYTHING!*

THE *STRANGER* TOOK CONTROL OF THE *HULK'S* BRAIN --- BUT, NOW THAT I'M *BRUCE BANNER* ONCE MORE, HIS POWER OVER ME HAS *VANISHED!*

THE WORLD IS *SAFE* FROM THE SHATTERING ONSLAUGHT OF MY OTHER SELF!

OR... *IS* IT SAFE ??!

I CAN'T REMAIN BRUCE BANNER *FOREVER!* SOONER OR LATER I'LL CHANGE BACK TO THE *HULK* AGAIN... AS I'VE DONE SO OFTEN IN THE *PAST!*

AND, WHEN I *DO*... WHAT IF I MUST *OBEY* THE STRANGER'S DEADLY *COMMAND* ONCE MORE?

WHAT IF *NOTHING* CAN STOP ME *NEXT* TIME?

I CANNOT... I *DARE* NOT TAKE THE AWESOME *CHANCE!*

ONLY *ONE* THING WILL INSURE THE SAFETY OF MANKIND..

THE HULK MUST DIE!

EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS THE DEATH OF *BRUCE BANNER,* AS WELL!

RIGHT *HERE*,.. ON THIS POST...IS THE POTENT *GAMMA RAY MACHINE* WHICH I MYSELF CREATED!

I'VE GOT TO *REACH* IT BEFORE I BECOME *TRANS-FORMED* AGAIN!

ONE SINGLE *OVER-DOSE* OF ITS FATAL RAYS, AND THE MENACE OF THE *HULK* WILL BE ENDED... *FOREVER!*

MEANWHILE, AT ANOTHER PART OF THE BASE, GENERAL *THUNDERBOLT ROSS* HAS CALLED AN URGENT MEETING OF HIS TOP SECURITY OFFICERS ---

GENTLEMEN, AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF MY DAUGHTER, *BETTY,* HAS BEEN MADE BY AN UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANT!

THREE SEPARATE ATTEMPTS TO *SABOTAGE* OUR MOST VITAL MISSILES HAVE BEEN NARROWLY NIPPED IN THE BUD!

WE *KNOW* THERE'S A *FOREIGN AGENT* OPERATING HERE ON THE POST-- BUT HE'S MANAGED TO SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS TIME AND AGAIN!

WE'LL *GET* HIM, GENERAL! HE CAN'T EVADE US MUCH LONGER! IT'S JUST A MATTER OF *TIME!*

DID YOU *HEAR* THAT, GENTLEMEN? *MAJOR TALBOT* TELLS US IT'S JUST A MATTER OF *TIME!*

WELL, I'VE SOMETHING TO TELL THE *MAJOR*.. AND *ALL* OF YOU--!!

WE'VE PLUMB RUN *OUT* OF TIME!

I WANT THAT BLASTED SPY *CAUGHT*... AND I WANT HIM CAUGHT *NOW!!*

THE SECURITY OF THIS ENTIRE *MISSILE COMMAND*--- OF THIS ENTIRE *NATION*---MAY BE AT STAKE!

IF I DON'T GET *RESULTS,* I'LL TAKE IT OUT OF YOUR *HIDES!!* I'LL *BREAK* EVERY *ONE* OF YOU--!!

DO I MAKE MYSELF *CLEAR???*

NOW *GET GOING!!* YOU *HAVE* YOUR ORDERS! *OBEY* THEM!! *BRING ME THAT SPY!!*

HE'S CLEVER-- AND HE'S *DANGEROUS!!* TAKE NO *CHANCES!!* WHEN YOU'VE *NAILED* HIM, SHOOT TO *KILL,* IF NECESSARY!

WE'LL *GET* 'IM, GENERAL! YOU CAN *COUNT* ON IT!

BETTY! WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT'S *WRONG?*

OH, GLEN ... I'M *FRIGHTENED!* *BRUCE* HAS BEEN MISSING--FOR DAYS!!

WHAT IF *HE*... OR THAT HORRIBLE *HULK*---ARE MIXED UP IN ANY OF THIS??

HAVE I *FOUND* HIM..AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED--- ONLY TO *LOSE* HIM ONCE MORE--- *FOREVER?*

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU *DID* LOSE HIM? ALL HE'S EVER *DONE* IS--- BREAK YOUR HEART!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE NOW-DESERTED LAB OF *DR. BRUCE BANNER*, A MERCILESS, STEELY-EYED INTRUDER, IN THE STOLEN UNIFORM OF A POST *M.P.*, THINKS HIS OWN DARK THOUGHTS...

IF I HAD SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING THE GENERAL'S *DAUGHTER*, MY TASK MIGHT HAVE BEEN *SIMPLER!*

I COULD HAVE HELD HER *HOSTAGE* FOR MY OWN SAFETY!

BUT, I CAN AFFORD TO WAIT *NO LONGER!*

I *MUST* GET PICTURES OF THE *GAMMA RAY MACHINE*---NO MATTER *WHAT* THE COST!

THERE ARE THOSE BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN WHO WILL PAY *ANY PRICE* FOR BANNER'S INVENTION!

IF ANYONE *FINDS* ME HERE, I'LL CLAIM I WAS SEARCHING FOR THE ENEMY *SPY* WHOM EVERYONE IS SEEKING!

WHAT SUPREME *IRONY*---TO USE MY OWN *PRESENCE* AS MY OWN *DEFENSE!*

ANOTHER FEW PICTURES WITH MY SPECIAL *SUB-MINIATURE CAMERA*, AND THE JOB WILL BE *DONE!*

CLICK!

CLICK!

FOOTSTEPS!! SOMEONE'S *COMING!*

I *CAN'T* BE INTERRUPTED *NOW*... I'M NOT YET *FINISHED!*

I'LL FIND A PLACE TO *HIDE*---AND WAIT TILL HE *LEAVES!*

THUP!

THUD!

I'M IN *LUCK!* MY LAB'S *EMPTY!*

IT'S BANNER *HIMSELF!* WHAT CAN HE *WANT* HERE NOW?

I CAN'T *HESITATE*.. CAN'T PUT IT OFF FOR A SINGLE *MINUTE!*

IT MUST BE *DONE* BEFORE I CAN CHANGE INTO THE *HULK* AGAIN!

CLASK!

THERE! THE *SAFETY* IS OFF! NOW IT'S JUST A MATTER OF *TIME!*

BUT, BEFORE THE SELF-SACRIFICING SCIENTIST CAN PROPERLY *POSITION* HIMSELF IN FRONT OF THE FATEFUL *GAMMA RAY*---

HOLD IT, BANNER!! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING HIGH AND LOW FOR YOU!

THE *M.P.'S!!*

GRAB HIM, MEN... BEFORE HE CAN UTILIZE THAT *MACHINE!*

WAIT!! STOP! YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* I *MUST* BE LEFT ALONE WITH THESE *GAMMA RAYS!*

SO YOU CAN CHANGE BACK TO THE *HULK* AND GET *AWAY* FROM US? IT WON'T *WORK*, BANNER!

NO! LISTEN TO ME! LET ME *EXPLAIN--!*

IT'S FOR *YOUR* SAKE... FOR THE SAKE OF *HUMANITY!* DON'T STOP ME *NOW--!*

WE HAVE OUR *ORDERS*, MISTER! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH!

AND, AS THE VAINLY-PROTESTING PRISONER IS DRAGGED AWAY...

WHATEVER HE WAS *UP* TO, THEY NIPPED HIS PLAN RIGHT IN THE BUD!

BUT, HE SURE DID *WANT* TO GET IN FRONT OF THAT *MACHINE* OF HIS!

I WONDER *WHY*?

BANNER'S THE *GREATEST* ATOMIC SCIENTIST OF THEM ALL! WHATEVER HE WAS *AFTER*--- IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING REALLY *BIG!*

AND NOW... *I'VE* GOT THE CHANCE TO *FIND OUT!*

THIS COULD BE THE *GREATEST* THING I'VE EVER STUMBLED ONTO!

THIS IS WHERE *BANNER* WANTED TO STAND! NOW, LET'S SEE...

THAT *FOOT CONTROL* MUST ACTIVATE THE APPARATUS!

PTHIPP!

AND THEN, THE *INCREDIBLE* OCCURS ONCE MORE!!

WHAT...WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME??

---I'M *CHANGING!!*

IT..MUST BE... THE SAME PROCESS... THAT CHANGED *BANNER*--- INTO THE *HULK*..!

I'VE GOT TO... *STOP* IT!! I DIDN'T *KNOW*--- DIDN'T *SUSPECT*..!!

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE---BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED--THE DREADED *GAMMA RAYS* HAVE DONE THEIR FRIGHTFUL WORK---!

TOO LATE TO STOP!! HAH!! DON'T *WANT* TO STOP!! I'M *DIFFERENT*... MORE *POWERFUL!!*

I'M STRONG AS THE *HULK!!* I CAN DO *ANYTHING!!* I'M MASTER OF THE *WORLD*--- OF THE WHOLE *UNIVERSE!!*

NO ONE CAN STAND UP TO ME!! NO ONE CAN STOP ME! I AM INVINCIBLE!

AND THEN, WITHOUT REALIZING IT, THE NEWLY-CREATED MONSTROUS BEING UNWITTINGLY SAVES HIS OWN LIFE --!

I'LL SMASH THIS MACHINE SO THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN EVER BE AS POWERFUL AS I!!

--FOR, HAD HE BEEN BOMBARDED BY THE INDESCRIBABLY POTENT RAYS JUST A FEW SECONDS LONGER, THE FORMER SPY WOULD HAVE SUFFERED THE SAME FATE WHICH BRUCE BANNER HAD INTENDED FOR THE HULK..

THUBOOM!

HAH!! NOW, THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF US...ME.. AND THE BRAINLESS GREEN HULK!

BUT, SOON ONLY ONE WILL REMAIN!!

FOR, ONCE I DESTROY HIM...MY STRENGTH WILL BE THE GREATEST! MY POWER WILL BE SUPREME!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS TO DO IS... FIND HIM!

BTAM!

AND, FIND HIM I WILL--!!

THERE'S ROOM FOR ONLY ONE LIVING, GREEN-SKINNED POWERHOUSE HERE ON EARTH...*

AND THAT ONE IS ME!!

6.

*AS WE HAVE SEEN, THE MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS AFFECT EVERYONE THEY TOUCH IN A DIFFERENT MANNER! MANY MONTHS AGO, THEY GAVE THE NOW-DEAD LEADER THE MOST BRILLIANT MIND ON EARTH! WHEN THEY TRANSFORMED BRUCE BANNER INTO THE HULK, THEY SUBSTITUTED INTELLIGENCE FOR POWER! AND NOW..THEY HAVE CREATED THE ABOMINATION YOU SEE BEFORE YOU!

SECONDS LATER, INSIDE AN IRON-BARRED, CEMENT-WALLED *GUARDHOUSE*...

ANOTHER GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER!!

MY *GAMMA-RAY!* SOMEONE *ELSE* MUST HAVE *ACTIVATED* IT... STOOD IN ITS *BEAM!!*

IT'S THE ONLY *ANSWER!*

BUT, WHOEVER HE *IS*... HE MUST BE *STOPPED!*

THEN, IN HIS EXCITEMENT... THE *TENSION* WITHIN BANNER'S BRAIN AGAIN TRIGGERS HIS AWESOME *TRANSFORMATION*..

AND, HE CAN *ONLY* BE STOPPED BY...

THE HULK!

SKRUNTCH!

NO ONE KEEPS *HULK* IN CELL!

CRRAK!

ALTHOUGH HIS NOW-CLOUDED BRAIN HAS ALREADY *FORGOTTEN* HIS REASON FOR ATTACKING THE *ABOMINATION* ...ONCE STARTED, THE *HULK* CAN NEVER *STOP* HIS BESTIAL CHARGE..!

THE HULK!!

OOMP!

THOOMP!

FINALLY, AS THE DEAFENING *IMPACT* SEEMS TO SHAKE THE SURROUNDING *MOUNTAINS* THEMSELVES, THE TWO GREAT, GAMMA-POWERED *GOLIATHS* CLASH IN MORTAL COMBAT---

HULK WILL STOP YOU!!

THIS IS YOUR *FINISH*, YOU GRUESOME GARGOYLE!!

EVEN IF YOUR OWN *STRENGTH* CAN MATCH *MINE*... I'VE THE *BRAINS* TO THINK-- TO *OUT-PLAN* YOU!!

WHOOOOM!

BRROP!

HAH! NEVER BEFORE HAVE YOU FACED SOMEONE WHO COULD STAND UP TO YOUR STRONGEST ATTACK---

...AND THEN BEAT YOU BACK WITH AN ONSLAUGHT THAT'S STILL STRONGER!

NO ONE BEATS HULK BACK--- NO ONE!!

BRAINLESS BEAST!! YOU HAVEN'T THE SENSE TO REALIZE ---YOU'RE DOOMED!!

NOT ONLY IS MY INTELLIGENCE GREATER THAN YOURS---

BUT MY OWN NATURAL POWER IS, ALSO!*

I'LL HAVE YOU HELPLESS WITH ANOTHER FEW BLOWS!

KLOK!

*IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENTIFIC FURTHERANCE, WE FEEL COMPELLED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE ABOMINATION WAS SUBJECTED TO A MORE INTENSE DOSAGE OF GAMMA RAYS THAN BRUCE BANNER HAD FORMERLY RECEIVED! --- SET-THE-RECORD-STRAIGHT STAN.

DAD! WHO--OR WHAT--CAN THAT ABOMINATION BE?

I DON'T KNOW, BETTY--- BUT YOU'VE CHOSEN A PERFECT NAME FOR IT!!

HE'S BEATING BACK THE HULK!! IF-- IF HE ISN'T STOPPED-- HE'LL KILL HIM! HE'LL KILL BRUCE BANNER!

IF ONLY THEY'D FINISH OFF EACH OTHER! PERHAPS, IF THEY KEEP FIGHTING--!

NO--!

THE HULK HASN'T A CHANCE!

THE OTHER ONE IS TOO POWERFUL! LOOK--- THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM!

THEY CALLED ME AN ABOMINATION--- AND THEY'RE RIGHT!

BAM!

WHEN I'M THROUGH MENACING MANKIND, THEY'LL WISH THEY HAD ONLY THE HULK TO WORRY ABOUT!

BUT, BY THEN, YOU'LL BE NO MORE THAN A FORGOTTEN MEMORY!

AND NOW... I'M THROUGH *TOYING* WITH YOU!!

NOTHING THAT *LIVES* CAN SURVIVE A BLOW LIKE *THIS*--!

NOT EVEN... THE *HULK!*

KRAK

IT'S *ENDED!!* NOW, THE *ABOMINATION* IS THE MOST POWERFUL LIVING MORTAL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!!

NO *LONGER* NEED I RESORT TO BEING A FURTIVE *SPY*---!

NOW, I HAVE ONLY TO DESIRE A GOAL... AND I POSSESS THE *STRENGTH* TO MAKE IT *MINE!*

BUT, OTHERS HAVE BEEN WATCHING!!

SO LONG AS I REMAIN HERE, I AM VULNERABLE TO ATTACK BY THEIR MISSILES AND ROCKETS!!

AND I HAVEN'T YET LEARNED WHETHER OR NOT I CAN SURVIVE SUCH AN ATTACK!

THE ABOMINATION IS TOO CLEVER TO CARELESSLY RISK HIS NEW-FOUND POWER NOW!

HENCE, I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE... TEMPORARILY!!

AND, TO INSURE NO PURSUIT, I'LL TAKE A HOSTAGE WITH ME!

NO! NO!! LET ME GO..!!

STOP HIM! HE CAN'T... HE MUSTN'T.. UHHH!

STOP ME?? YOU PUNY FOOLS...

...STOP ME... HOW?!!

EVERYTHING THE HULK COULD DO...I CAN DO.. AND BETTER!!

BETTY!! HE'S GOT MY DAUGHTER!!

HE'S LEAPING AWAY WITH HER...AND WE DARE NOT FIRE AFTER THEM... FOR FEAR OF HITTING HER!

WE'LL GET HIM, SIR! SOMEHOW.. SOME WAY.. WE'LL GET HIM!!

BUT... HE'S POWER PERSONIFIED... WITH A NORMAL INTELLIGENCE, TO BOOT!!

HE'S THE GREATEST LIVING THREAT EVER TO FACE US...EVER TO MENACE THE NATION...OR, THE WORLD!!

BUT, HE MUST HAVE A WEAKNESS... AND, IF HE DOES, WE'LL FIND IT!! WE'VE GOT TO FIND IT!

THERE'S ONLY ONE BEING WHO MIGHT HAVE CAUGHT HIM... WHO MIGHT HAVE STOPPED HIM..!

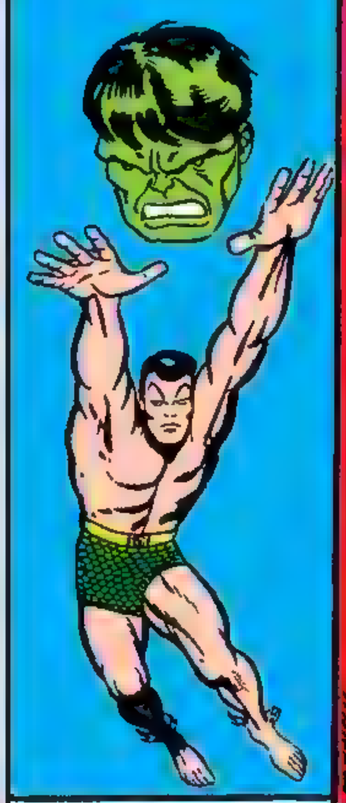
...AND THERE HE LIES..!

THE ONE WE HUNTED... WE HOUNDED... THE ONE WE ALLOWED NO PEACE.. NO RESPITE!

WE GOT OUR WISH! THE HULK IS VANQUISHED ...AT LAST!

AND, IN HIS PLACE...WE HAVE.. THE ABOMINATION!!

TO BE HULKINUED!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢ IND. | 91 MAY

THE INCREDIBLE

HULK and THE SUB-MARINER

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES TO ASTONISH

FEATURING: THE ABOMINATION!

"WHOSOEVER HARMS THE HULK...!"

"WHOSOEVER HARMS THE HULK...!"

THE ABOMINATION HAS CAPTURED MY DAUGHTER--!

--AND WE DON'T DARE FIRE FOR FEAR OF HITTING HER!

EVEN THE HULK CAN'T HELP US NOW!

CREATED BY A FREAK GAMMA RAY ACCIDENT, AN ORDINARY ENEMY SPY HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO THE ALL-POWERFUL ABOMINATION! AND, BECAUSE HE RECEIVED A HEAVIER DOSE OF RADIATION THAN BRUCE BANNER HIMSELF, THE FLEEING MONSTER HAS THE STRENGTH TO ACTUALLY DEFEAT THE INCREDIBLE HULK IN A STAND-UP FIGHT!

AND, THAT'S NOT ALL-- BUT WE'LL HAVE TO FILL YOU IN ON THE REST AS WE GO THUNDERING ALONG--

A POWER-PACKED PLETHORA OF PULSATING PERILS, BY:

STAN (THE MAN) LEE and GIL (SUGAR-LIPS) KANE

LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

LOOK AT HIM--THE ROTTEN, BRAINLESS, RAMPAGING MADMAN!

ALL HIS STRENGTH--HIS BESTIAL POWER--MEANT NOTHING WHEN IT COUNTED THE MOST! THE ABOMINATION MADE MINCE-MEAT OUT OF HIM!

BUT, HE TRIED, GENERAL! WE'VE GOT TO GIVE HIM THAT! HE DID THE BEST HE COULD!

IF ONLY HE WERE STILL ALIVE! HE MIGHT YET BE ABLE TO LEAD US TO BETTY!

OUR OWN JETS ARE TOO FAST! THE ABOMINATION COULD EASILY HIDE FROM THEM! BUT, THE HULK--!

GENERAL! LISTEN! HOW DO WE KNOW HE'S DEAD?? WHAT IF--?

OF COURSE!! WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THAT, INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME?!!

SERGEANT!! GET THOSE MEN OVER HERE--ON THE DOUBLE!

LIFT HIM OFF THE GROUND--EASY, EASY WITH HIM, BLAST IT!!

NOW, GET HIM TO BANNER'S LAB!

I'LL GET THE MEDIC, SIR! I'LL HAVE HIM WAITING AT THE LAB BY THE TIME THEY REACH IT!

IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE OF REVIVING HIM--WE'LL DO IT!!

AWRIGHT, YOU HEARD THE GENERAL! LET'S GO!!

M.P.

HIS BODY'S STILL WARM, SARGE! MAYBE HE IS STILL ALIVE!

THE ABOMINATION HAS DISAPPEARED OVER THE HILLS WITH BETTY! HE COULD BE HIDDEN ANY-WHERE BY NOW!

THE HULK HAS TO BE ALIVE--HE HAS TO!!

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A CHANCE OF GOING AFTER THEM--OF MATCHING THAT MONSTER'S GIGANTIC LEAPS!

HE MUSTN'T DIE! THE HULK MUSTN'T DIE!

MOMENTS LATER, IN BANNER'S LAB, A GRIM-FACED SURGEON TENSELY SCRUTANIZES THE MOTIONLESS GREEN GIANT...

THERE'S STILL A PULSE--BUT IT'S WEAK--AND GETTING WEAKER!

HE TOOK ENOUGH PUNISHMENT TO HAVE DESTROYED A HUNDRED MEN!

IT'S A MIRACLE THAT HE'S ALIVE AT ALL!

HIS BODY IS SO STRANGE--SO INCREDIBLY DIFFERENT--IT DOESN'T RESPOND TO NORMAL TREATMENT!

I'M AFRAID --IT'S HOPELESS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE--

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME OUT! THE HULK'S HURT--HE NEEDS ME! I'VE GOTTA SEE HIM!

COME BACK HERE, KID! THAT LAB'S OFF-LIMITS!

IT'S RICK JONES--THE HULK'S ONLY FRIEND!

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S GUNGA DIN!!

HEY, YOU GUYS--STOP 'IM!

WE'VE GOT OUR ORDERS!

THOP! THUD! THUMP!

WHAT'SA MATTER WITH YA? HE'S ONLY ONE KID!

YEAH--BUT HE'S SLIPPERY AS AN EEL! AND YOU DON'T EXPECT US TO SHOOT 'IM?!!

IT'S OKAY! HE'LL NEVER GET THRU THE DOOR WHILE I'M HERE!

GENERAL! GENERAL ROSS! ARE YOU IN THERE? IT'S ME--RICK JONES! LEMME IN--YOU'VE GOTTA LET ME SEE THE HULK!

GRAB 'IM! HE'S REALLY POPPED HIS CORK NOW!

BUT, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER--

OPEN THAT DOOR! LET THE BOY IN!

BUT, GENERAL--YOUR ORDERS WERE--!

HANG MY ORDERS!! MAYBE JONES KNOWS SOMETHING THAT WE DON'T!

WITH THE ABOMINATION RUNNING LOOSE, WE'RE NOT PASSING UP ANY CHANCE!

THE GAMMA ELECTRODES! IF ANYTHING'LL REVIVE HIM, THEY WILL!

BUT YOU GOTTA HURRY--!

THUS, AS THE TENSION GROWS THICK ENOUGH TO BE FELT BY ALL--

GENERAL, IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, I REQUEST PERMISSION TO LEAD A PLATOON OF VOLUNTEERS INTO THE HILL--!

IT WOULD TAKE YOU DAYS TO REACH EM, TALBOT! THE HULK COULD DO IT IN MINUTES!

QUIET, GENTLEMEN! THIS IS IT!

I'VE SET THE GAMMA ELECTRODES AT FULL STRENGTH!

THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO--EXCEPT PRAY!

THTAK!

KLAK!

ZZZ

IT WAS JUST A SMALL *TWITCH!!*

THE NEXT FEW *SECONDS* WILL TELL THE STORY!

DOES IT MEAN--HE'S *REVIVING??* OR--

IS IT HIS *FINAL* REACTION TO THE RAY-- BEFORE *DEATH?*

KEEP THE ELECTRODES WORKING-- DON'T STOP! *DON'T STOP!*

LOOK! HIS *FINGERS!* THEY *MOVED!*

HE-HE'S RAISING HIS *ARM!*

HIS *LIPS* ARE MOVING-- TRYING TO *TALK--!*

HULK LIVES!

IT'S A *MIRACLE!* HE'S BECOMING STRONGER THAN *EVER!*

Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z

IT WAS *JONES'* SUGGESTION THAT *DID* IT!

ONLY THAT BOOST OF *GAMMA RAYS* COULD SAVE HIM!

SOLDIERS--ALL AROUND! TRY TO *CAPTURE* HULK!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GETTING *UP!*

STAY BACK! YOU'VE GOT TO *LISTEN* TO ME! WE *NEED* YOU! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU MUST *DO!*

HULK LISTENS TO *NO ONE!* NOBODY CAN CAPTURE *HULK!*

WE'RE NOT *TRYING* TO CAPTURE YOU, BLAST IT!

IT'S *NO USE*, SIR! HE'S NOT *READING* YOU--!

CAN'T YOU GET IT THRU YOUR THICK UGLY *SKULL* WE WANT YOU TO *HELP* US?!!

YOU *LIE!!* TRY TO *TRICK* HULK! *HAH!* YOU'RE LIKE *FLEAS!*

YOU HOLD *GUNS!* --ALWAYS HOLD GUNS!!

BUT *GUNS* CAN'T STOP *HULK--!*

M.P.

M.P.

LOOK OUT--! =UNHHH!=

THUD!

HE'S RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL! HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED!!

THE WALL! HE CRASHED RIGHT THRU IT!

PTROK

HULK MUST BE FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE!

QUICK! ALERT ALL ARTILLERY UNITS! PREPARE ATOMIC MORTARS!!

HE'S TOO POWERFUL--TOO DANGEROUS! IF HE GOES ON ANOTHER RAMPAGE--!

NO! DON'T ATTACK HIM! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!

GIVE ME A CHANCE! LET ME TRY--TO REASON WITH 'IM!

OH NO! HE'S GETTING READY TO LEAP!

THUMP!

HULK--WAIT!! DON'T! LISTEN TO ME--!

YOU CAN'T GO RUNNING OFF NOW!

STAY BACK!

LET ME EXPLAIN! THEY NEED YOU! CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND--?

HULK SAID-- BACK!

=UNHHH!=

HULK--NO MATTER WHAT--YOU DO TO ME--DOESN'T MATTER!

I'LL NEVER FORGET--HOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONCE--HOW YOU TURNED INTO--THE HULK--TO SAVE ME--FROM THAT GAMMA BOMB--!*

*AND, IF HE EVER DOES FORGET, ALL RICK HAS TO DO IS RE-READ IT IN HULK #1, RIGHT? SAGACIOUS STAN.

AND NOW--I CAN'T FAIL YOU!

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE--TO FINALLY MAKE EVERYONE KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT REALLY A MENACE! YOU CAN BECOME A HERO--!!

IT COULD CHANGE--YOUR WHOLE LIFE! YOU WON'T BE--HUNTED ANY MORE!

TOO MANY WORDS!! HULK DOESN'T LIKE TALK!! ONLY BANNER LIKES TALK--!

BANNER! THAT'S IT! IF YOU COULD ONLY REMEMBER! IT'S YOU--YOU'RE DR. BANNER!

THINK, HULK!! YOU'VE GOTTA THINK!!

THEN--SLOWLY, DESPERATELY, THE ANGUISHED YOUTH TURNS HIS EYES *HEAVENWARD*--AS A TORTURED *PRAYER* ESCAPES HIS QUIVERING LIPS--

I'VE NEVER *DONE* MUCH--NEVER *BEEN* MUCH--! I KNOW I'VE NO *RIGHT* TO ASK ANY FAVORS--!

BUT, IT'S NOT FOR *ME!* IT'S FOR THE GENERAL'S *DAUGHTER!!* SHE NEEDS *HELP!*

AND, IT'S FOR THE *HULK!* HE'S BEEN HUNTED--*HOUNDED*--SO LONG! HE'S NEVER KNOWN ANY REST--OR PEACE!

IF YOU'D JUST GIVE HIM--THIS *ONE* CHANCE--TO *PROVE* HIMSELF--!

IF YOU'D JUST MAKE HIM *UNDER-STAND!!*

HULK--YOU KNOW I'M YOUR *FRIEND!!* YOU KNOW YOU CAN *TRUST* ME!

IF YOU RUN OUT ON US NOW, IT'LL ALL BE *OVER!* THERE'LL *NEVER* BE ANY HOPE FOR YOU--!

BUT, IF YOU TRY TO *HELP*--IF YOU'LL JUST DO WHAT THE GENERAL *WANTS* --!

NO!

HULK HAS *NO* FRIENDS!! GENERAL IS HULK'S *ENEMY!!*

I-I'VE *FAILED!!* HE WON'T *LISTEN* TO ME--!

NOW--WHEN IT MATTERS THE *MOST*--WHEN I REALLY HAD THE CHANCE--TO PAY HIM *BACK* FOR SAVING MY LIFE--I COULDN'T *DO* IT--!

BUT--I'VE *GOT* TO KEEP *TRYING*--NO MATTER *WHAT*--! I-I'VE GOT TO BE *WORTHY*--!

EVEN IF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT *YOUR-SELF*--THINK OF THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER--*BETTY!*

ONLY *YOU* CAN SAVE HER LIFE--!!

SLOWLY, FALTERINGLY--THE MASSIVE HEAD *TURNS!!* THEN DIMLY, SOME FAINT GLIMMER OF *COMPREHENSION* APPEARS IN THE COLD, UNBLINKING EYES--

--*BETTY*--!

I--REMEMBER--NOW--!

SHE WAS *CAPTURED*--BY THE ONE CALLED--*ABOMINA-TION!*

AND THEN, AS THE EVER-MOUNTING *RAGE* WITHIN THE GREEN GIANT'S HEART GRADUALLY BEGINS TO DIMINISH, ONE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE *CHANGES* KNOWN TO SCIENCE OCCURS ONCE AGAIN--

RICK! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* THERE? GET UP, BOY--GET *UP!*

THANKS --FOR *LISTENING* TO ME!! *THANKS*--!

DOC! LISTEN--FAST!

SOMEONE STOOD IN FRONT OF YOUR GAMMA RAY MACHINE--AND TURNED HIMSELF INTO SOME KINDA MONSTER--JUST LIKE THE HULK--ONLY STRONGER!

THEY CALL HIM--THE ABOMINATION!

TELL HIM THE MOST IMPORTANT PART, BLAST IT!! HE CAPTURED MY DAUGHTER!!

WHAT? YOU MEAN BETTY IS A PRISONER OF ANOTHER GAMMA RAY-INDUCED CREATURE--?!!

HE RAN OFF WITH HER--IN LEAPS THAT ONLY THE HULK CAN MATCH!!

BUT, WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE NOW? WHAT GOOD CAN YOU DO, BANNER??

IT'S THE HULK WE NEED--NOT HIS WEAK-KNEED BUMBLING ALTER EGO!!

SIMMER DOWN, GENERAL! BETTY MEANS AS MUCH TO ME AS SHE DOES TO YOU--WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!

IF SHE CAN BE SAVED, WE'LL DO IT!

IN WHICH DIRECTION DID THE ABOMINATION RUN OFF?

NORTHEAST! WELL, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANNA KNOW?

WHY THE STALL? CHANGE YOURSELF TO THE HULK--AND GO AFTER THEM, MAN!!

RICK SAID HE WAS STRONGER THAN I, DIDN'T HE?

SO LET'S QUIT THINKING WITH OUR MOUTHS! IF BETTY'S HIS CAPTIVE, WE CAN'T TAKE CHANCES!

YOU MEAN--YOU WON'T HELP--?!!

I DIDN'T SAY THAT!

WE NEED A PLAN! AND I THINK I'VE GOT ONE!

INSTEAD OF THE HULK GOING AFTER HIM--WE'LL LET THE ABOMINATION COME TO US!

BANNER'S IDEA IS WORTH A TRY, GENERAL!

WELL, WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR, MISTER? LET'S GO!

REMEMBER THE INFINITE WEAPON I WAS WORKING ON--? THE ONE DESIGNED TO REPEL GAMMA ATTACK!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, I CAN MODIFY IT TO SEND OUT INFRA-GAMMA BEAMS--BEAMS WHICH HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST!

BUT, IF THE ABOMINATION IS STRONGER THAN YOU--HOW CAN YOU FIGHT HIM, DOC?

I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN WHEN WE REACH THE LAB! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

AND SO, ANOTHER MARVEL SCOOP! BETCHA THIS IS THE FIRST INFINITE WEAPON LAB YOU'VE EVER SEEN--!

BY ORDER OF GENERAL ROSS! ACTIVATE INFINITE WEAPON RAY! TOP PRIORITY--CONDITION RED!

ALL PERSONNEL MUST BE ANSWERABLE TO ME ALONE!

THERE WON'T BE TIME TO DUPLICATE OR RE-TRANSMIT ORDERS!

THIS IS ROSS! DOCTOR BANNER IS IN COMPLETE COMMAND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

NOW GET ON WITH IT, MISTER!

IT'S THUNDERBOLT ROSS HIMSELF!

WHATEVER'S UP--IT'S GOTTA BE BIG!

SET RANGE O-X23-ZY!
MOVE, MAN!! WE'RE NOT PLAYING GAMES HERE NOW!
DOC--WHAT'LL YOU DO-- WHEN HE GETS HERE?
YOU'LL SEE WHEN THE TIME COMES!
PUT TWO MEN AT THAT VIDEO SCANNER!! STEP ON IT!
REPORT ANYTHING YOU SEE!

DR. BANNER!! IT'S THE ABOMINATION! HE'S HEADING THIS WAY!
--IT'S AS THOUGH SOMETHING'S DRAWING HIM TO THE SPOT!!
SOMETHING IS PULLING HIM HERE! IT'S THE DOC'S INFINATE GAMMA RAY! IT HAS TO BE!
LOOK AT THOSE MUSCLES RIPPLE--LOOK AT HIS SPEED --HIS POWER!!
HOW WILL WE EVER BE ABLE TO HANDLE HIM??
AS SOON AS HE GETS CLOSER-- CLEAR OUT--THAT MEANS ALL OF YOU!
IT'S GOT TO BE MY SHOW FROM HERE ON IN!
I DON'T GET IT!
IF HE'S STRONGER THAN THE HULK-- HOW CAN ANYTHING STOP 'IM?

SECONDS LATER, AS THE REMAINDER OF THE PERSONNEL HASTILY EVACUATE THE AREA--
SOMETHING KEPT PULLING ME HERE-- LIKE A TORMENTING MAGNET THAT I CAN'T RESIST!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S COMING FROM THE LAB--JUST AHEAD--!
THE CLOSER I GET, THE STRONGER THE PULL!
THOOM!

BTAM!

BANNER!! THEN--IT'S YOUR DOING!! IT'S THAT RAY YOU'RE OPERATING!
HE'S PUTTING HER DOWN! GOOD! IT'S WHAT I WANTED!
THE GIRL WILL BE SAFE ENOUGH-- WHILE I FINISH YOU OFF FOREVER!
AND NOW --WHILE HE'S RIGHT IN POSITION --!
KLIK!

ARGHH!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T-- YOU CAN'T!!
EACH SECOND IN FRONT OF THE RAY WILL SAP YOUR STRENGTH --!

JUST ANOTHER FEW MINUTES! IF ONLY THE BEAM WILL HOLD HIM THERE--!
NOOO!
BUT, EVEN THE PLAN OF THE BRILLIANT BRUCE BANNER CAN GO ASTRAY--AS WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE IN THE NEXT SPLIT-SECOND---

THE *EXCITEMENT*-- THE UNBEARABLE *TENSION*--

THEY'RE AFFECTING MY *BLOOD PRESSURE!*

I-I'M *CHANGING* AGAIN!

THE *HULK* NEEDS NO *MACHINE* TO FIGHT WITH!

CRUNCH!

HAVING UNTHINKINGLY *DESTROYED* THE INFINITE MACHINE'S *CONTROL LEVER*, THE RAGING-MAD *HULK* NOW FACES A FOE WHOSE STRENGTH IS *STILL* THE EQUAL OF HIS OWN--!

YOU BRAINLESS *FOOL!* YOU'VE SET ME *FREE!*

ONLY UNTIL HULK *REACHES* YOU--!

ZOK!

SPOOK!

AROOOAHH

AKK!

BRRAK!

AND, A THOUSAND GALAXIES AWAY, THE UNBLINKING EYES OF THE *STRANGER* OBSERVE THE GRIM TABLEAU WITH MIXED, ALIEN EMOTIONS--

ALTHOUGH THEIR *STRENGTH* IS NOW *EQUAL*, THE *HULK* IS BY FAR THE MOST SAVAGE, THE MOST UNRELENTING OF *ALL!*

IT IS *CLEAR* TO ME NOW THAT HE WILL *NEVER* SERVE ANOTHER MASTER!

I WONDER --WAS I *MISTAKEN* ABOUT MANKIND?

IF A *BRUTE*-- SUCH AS THE *HULK*--CAN BE SO *VALOROUS* --PERHAPS THERE STILL IS HOPE FOR THE *REST* OF HUMANITY!

BUT, HE WHO IS CALLED THE *ABOMINATION* IS TRULY *EVIL!*

THAT, COUPLED WITH HIS HULKISH *POWER*, SHOULD MAKE *HIM* THE HIRELING I SEEK!

THUS, I SHALL BRING HIM *TO* ME--FOR, HE WILL NOT BE *MISSED* UPON THE EARTH!

MANKIND-- *FAREWELL!* THE *STRANGER* HAS OTHER INTERESTS--IN OTHER WORLDS!

AS THE *ABOMINATION* HURTLES TO MY SIDE, I *LEAVE* YOU--AS I *FOUND* YOU--FREE TO SEEK YOUR OWN DESTINY!

AND, I NOW *REMOVE* ANY SEMBLANCE OF MY *CONTROL* WHICH MIGHT STILL REMAIN WITHIN THE MIGHTY *HULK!*

MY *HEAD!*-- LIKE SOME-THING *SNAPPED* --INSIDE MY BRAIN--!

HULK!! YOU'VE *DONE* IT! YOU *WON!*

THE *ABOMINATION* IS--*GONE!*

HE SAVED MY *DAUGHTER*--AND DEFEATED THE WORST MENACE TO CONFRONT US!

BUT, SO LONG AS HE STILL REMAINS THE *HULK*--

WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH HIM?!?!

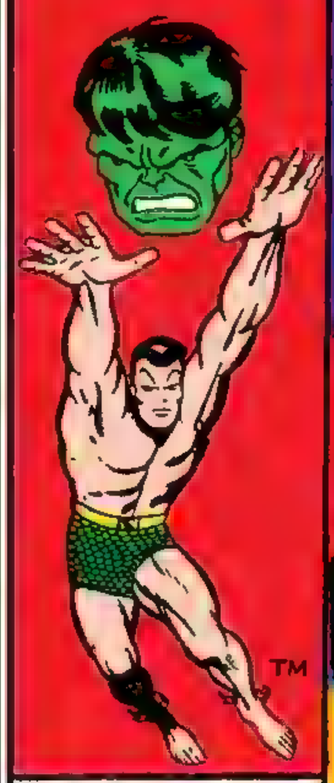
STAY BACK!! DON'T WANT PEOPLE AROUND ME--!

HULK MUST BE *FREE!* HULK MUST *GO*--!

AND, WHERE THE *HULK* WALKS--

--HE WALKS-- *ALONE!*

NEXT *THE NEW CHAPTER!*



SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES TO ASTONISH

MARVEL™ COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 92 JUN

"IT WALKS LIKE A MAN!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"TURNING POINT!"

IN WHICH A *GREAT NEW CHAPTER* DAWNS IN THE UNFORGETTABLE SAGA OF THE WORLD'S MOST *MISUNDERSTOOD MISANTHROPE!*

FEATURING: ONE OF THE MOST STARTLING *SURPRISES* OF THE SEASON.!!

WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, YOU'RE GONNA *GASP* AT THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF A WILDLY SENSATIONAL *GUEST STAR....!*

ANOTHER BOMBASTIC BULLPEN TRIUMPH!!
ONLY MIGHTY *MARVEL* COULD COMBINE THE MATCHLESS TALENTS OF:

SMILIN' **STAN LEE,** WRITER	*MAGNIFICENT* **MARIE SEVERIN,** ILLUSTRATOR
FRANK GIACOIA, INKER	**ARTIE SIMEK,** LETTERER

OVERSHADOWING POLITICS, CIVIL RIGHTS, SPORTS, OR THE DRAFT--THERE IS ***ONE*** SUBJECT WHICH HAS TAKEN THE ENTIRE NATION BY STORM--

TONIGHT, AS IT HAS DONE ***EVERY*** NIGHT FOR THE PAST MONTH--

THE ENTIRE ***WORLD*** NERVOUSLY WONDERS--

WHERE IS THE INCREDIBLE HULK?!!

EVENING NEWS

THE SUPER-POWERFUL GREEN-SKINNED GIANT WAS LAST SEEN DURING HIS FATEFUL BATTLE WITH THE DEADLY ***ABOMINATION!*** BUT, SINCE HIS ***TRIUMPH*** OVER THAT MYSTERIOUS MENACE, HE HAS VANISHED FROM HUMAN SIGHT!

BAM!

GENERAL ROSS, SINCE YOUR MISSILE COMMAND IS CONDUCTING SUCH AN INTENSIVE ***SEARCH,*** WOULD YOU CARE TO TELL THE PUBLIC--?

NO COMMENT!

NOW ***STAND ASIDE,*** BLAST IT! I'VE A ***JOB*** TO DO!

THE ***MISSILE BASE*** WHERE THE HULK FOUGHT HIS FINAL BATTLE IS ***STILL*** OFF-LIMITS TO ALL BUT MILITARY PERSONNEL...!

HOLD IT, MISTER! THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU ***GO!***

MISSILE BASE 261

MP

U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

UNITED UPI PRESS

UNTIL THE ***HULK*** IS FOUND, WE'RE OPERATING UNDER ***MAXIMUM SECURITY!***

SO ENDS MY ON-THE-SPOT BROADCAST!

NOW, STAND BY FOR A ***SPECIAL MESSAGE--!***

ALL CITIZENS ARE URGED TO REPORT ***ANY*** INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF ***DR. BANNER,*** OR HIS ALTER EGO, THE INCREDIBLE ***HULK!***

ALTHOUGH THE HULK HAS RECENTLY ***AIDED*** US, HE IS TOO ***UNCONTROLLABLE,*** TOO ***UNPREDICTABLE*** TO ROAM THE STREETS, UNCHECKED!

DR. BRUCE BANNER

HEIGHT: 5'11¼"

WEIGHT: 160

HAIR:

THE HU

ALL CITIZENS ARE ASKED TO STUDY THIS SCALE MODEL ***REPLICA*** OF THE MOST POWERFUL HUMAN ALIVE!

IF YOU ***SIGHT*** HIM, DO NOT--REPEAT--***DO NOT*** APPROACH HIM PERSONALLY!

RUSH TO THE NEAREST PHONE AND CALL YOUR LOCAL F.B.I. OFFICE--NATIONAL GUARD UNIT --OR NEAREST POLICE PRECINCT!

YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A NEW TOP PRIORITY ***PHONE NUMBER*** FOR INSTANT ACTION--

BRUCE--MY DARLING--WHAT ARE THEY ***DOING*** TO YOU?? WHY WON'T THEY--LEAVE YOU ALONE--?

BETTY! YOU'VE GOT TO GET ***HOLD*** OF YOURSELF! ***CRYING*** WON'T HELP!

BUT, GLEN--THEY NEVER STOP ***HOUNDING*** HIM! HE ISN'T A ***MONSTER*** --HE ***ISN'T--!!***

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE HULK!

HE'S THE KINDEST, GENTLEST, MOST BRILLIANT MAN ON EARTH!!

CAN'T THEY *REALIZE* THAT? CAN'T THEY SEE HOW THEY'RE *PERSECUTING* HIM--??

BETTY, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT *BRUCE BANNER!!*

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT HE'S ALSO THE *HULK?*

LOOK AT HIM! IMAGINE IF HE WENT ON A *RAMPAGE* !!

BUT HE CAN'T *HELP* BEING THE HULK!! HE DOESN'T *WANT* TO BE--IT WAS ALL AN *ACCIDENT* --A GHASTLY, NIGHTMARISH *ACCIDENT!*

IF ONLY--YOU COULD SOMEHOW--*FORGET* HIM!!

HOW MUCH *LONGER* CAN I STAND BY--HOPELESSLY IN *LOVE* WITH YOU--WHILE YOUR HEART BELONGS TO A MAN WHO IS--HALF-*MONSTER!*

BUT, WHAT OF *RICK JONES*--THE YOUTH WHOSE LIFE BRUCE BANNER HAD SAVED DURING THAT DREAD EXPLOSION WHICH FIRST TRANSFORMED THE FAMOUS SCIENTIST INTO--THE *HULK*--

CALLING *TEEN BRIGADE!!* --*RICK JONES*, CALLING TEEN BRIGADE!

REPORT YOUR PROGRESS IN OPERATION "*FIND THE HULK!*"

IF HE'S ANYWHERE WITHIN REACH OF *RADIO*, ONE OF MY HAM BUDDIES IS SURE TO LEARN OF IT!

I'M STANDING BY FOR *SEQUENCE* REPORTS--!

NO SIGN OF HIM HERE IN THE *DALLAS* AREA, RICK! WILL KEEP TRYING!

CLICK!

CLAK!

ALL *SOUTHERN* BRIGADIERS REPORT SAME THING-- *NO NEWS!*

HAVE MONITORED EVERY BROADCAST BETWEEN *L.A.* AND *'FRISCO*-- NO TRACE OF DOC BANNER *OR* THE HULK!

NO CHANGE IN *MIDWEST!* ALL STILL QUIET--!

OVERSEAS ROUNDUP, VIA SHORTWAVE, JUST COMPLETED! *NO SIGN* OF HIM IN EUROPE! OVER AND OUT--!

SUGGEST CONTACTING BRIGADIERS IN *MEXICO* AND *SOUTH AMERICA!*

AND, AS THE ENTIRE NATION, IF NOT THE *WORLD*, MAINTAINS A TENSE, UNCEASING VIGIL--ONE SILENT FIGURE WALKS THE SHADOWY SIDE-STREETS OF NEW YORK, VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED--

ANOTHER FEW MINUTES AND I WILL BE *THERE*--!

I PRAY I'VE FOUND THE RIGHT *INGREDIENTS* AT LAST-- FOR TIME IS RUNNING *OUT!*

I DARE NOT *FAIL!* EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON WHAT THE NEXT FEW HOURS WILL BRING--!

THEY *WATCH* ME WHEREVER I GO-- *ALL* OF THEM!

PERHAPS THEY *SUSPECT* THAT I'M HARBORING SOME AWESOME *SECRET*--!

BUT, IT'S BETTER THAT THEY *NEVER KNOW!* FOR, NOT EVEN THEIR DARKEST *SUSPICIONS* COULD BE AS FRIGHTENING AS THE GRIM, FATEFUL *TRUTH!!*

SAFE AT *LAST!*

SAFE!! WHAT A RIDICULOUS, INSANE *JEST!*

SO LONG AS I *LIVE*-- THERE CAN BE *NO* SAFETY!

SKI AT CH!

BUT AT LEAST, HERE IN THE SHADOWS, I'M FREE TO REMOVE THIS ACCURSED *DISGUISE--!*

WHO WOULD EVER HAVE *DREAMT* --ONLY A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO--

THAT THE WORLD-FAMOUS ATOMIC EXPERT, *DR. BRUCE BANNER--*

--WOULD BE THE OBJECT OF THE GREATEST *MAN HUNT* OF ALL!

WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMT THAT I WOULD ONE DAY SHARE THE *IDENTITY*--AND THE *MENACE*-- OF THE MOST *POWERFUL BRUTE* ALIVE ?!!

BUT, I MUSTN'T ALLOW MYSELF THE LUXURY OF *SELF PITY!* THERE'S TOO MUCH TO *DO!*

THIS WAS THE ONE MISSING INGREDIENT I *NEEDED--!*

IT'S THE *ONE* THING THAT MAY CURE ME *FOREVER!*

THE ONE THING THAT MAY LET ME *REMAIN* BRUCE BANNER TILL THE DAY I DIE--!

OR, WHICH MAY TURN ME INTO THE *HULK* ONCE MORE, NEVER TO BECOME HUMAN *AGAIN!*

BUT, NO MATTER *WHAT* HAPPENS, I'VE *GOT* TO CHANCE IT!

I CAN'T GO *ON* THIS WAY ANY LONGER-- BEING *HALF-MAN*... AND *HALF-MONSTER!!*

ALL THRU THE LONG, LONELY NIGHT THE TORTURED SCIENTIST LABORS ON... UNTIL, AT LAST--

IT'S *FINISHED!!* NOW--THERE CAN BE *NO* TURNING BACK--!

BY HARNESSING THE *GAMMA ENERGY* IN THE SKIES ABOVE, THE NEXT FEW MINUTES WILL TELL THE STORY!

IT WAS A *GAMMA BOMB* THAT FIRST TURNED ME INTO-- THE *HULK!*

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO SEE IF THOSE *SAME* MYSTERIOUS RAYS CAN *UNDO* THE TERRIBLE THING THEY HAVE DONE--!

IF I *SUCCEED* --IT MEANS I NEED NEVER FEAR TO TAKE *BETTY* IN MY ARMS AGAIN--

AND, IF I *FAIL*--THEN SHE CAN FINALLY *FORGET* ME--FOR I'LL REMAIN THE HULK--*FOREVER!*

UNNNH---SOMETHING'S *HAPPENING!!* MY ENTIRE *BODY*--FEELS AS THOUGH-- I'VE TOUCHED--A THOUSAND *LIVE WIRES*--!

IT'S--LIKE *NO* SENSATION--I'VE EVER FELT-- BEFORE!!!

ARHHH--!

I-I *FAILED!!* I CAN *FEEL* IT!--NOTHING HAS *CHANGED!*

MY CHEMICAL MAKEUP IS THE SAME AS BEFORE!

THE *GAMMA RADIATION* IS STILL IN MY BLOOD STREAM --I DIDN'T *DESTROY* IT!

THIS MEANS--I'LL *STILL* KEEP CHANGING --FROM BRUCE BANNER --TO-- THE *HULK*-- AND *BACK* AGAIN--!

--FOR AS LONG AS I *LIVE!*

IF ONLY--THE SHOCK HAD *FINISHED* ME--I'D HAVE BEEN --BETTER OFF!

BUT *NOW*-- THERE'S NO HOPE--THERE'S NOTHING LEFT--! I'VE NO PLACE TO TURN--!

I'LL BE SHUNNED --AND HATED AND *HOUNDED*-- TILL THE END OF MY DAYS!!

BUT, I DARE NOT EVEN GET *UPSET*--FOR, WHEN I GET *TENSE*--MY *HEARTBEAT* QUICKENS--

AND MY *PULSE RATE* SPEEDS UP--TRIGGERING THE HORRIBLE *CHANGE!*

OH *NO*-- *NO!!*

IT'S HAPPENING *AGAIN*--I CAN *FEEL* IT--!

I--MUSTN'T *LET* IT--CAN'T CHANGE *NOW*--!

DON'T *WANT* TO BE THE *HULK* AGAIN!! DON'T WANT TO BE--A *MONSTER*--!

I'LL *FIGHT* IT!!--WILL POWER-- I'LL USE-- ALL MY-- *WILL POWER*-- WON'T GIVE *IN*--!

GETTING *BIGGER*-- *STRONGER*--CAN FEEL THE *POWER* SURGING--!

17

I'M NOT PUNY *BRUCE BANNER* ANY MORE--!!

CAN'T WEAR SMALL SHOES-- SMALL SHIRT-- I'M TOO *BIG*-- TOO *POWERFUL*--!

THEY WERE GOOD ENOUGH FOR *BANNER!!* BUT, I'M *NOT* THE WEAKLING *BANNER*--

I'M THE HULK!

NOTHING THAT *LIVES* CAN STOP ME!!!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN THERE? WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET?

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

HOW D'YA EXPECT ANYONE TO GET ANY SLEEP AROUND HERE?!!

I GOT A GOOD MIND TO BUST IN THERE AND MOP UP THE FLOOR WITH YA!

--AND, IF YA DON'T STOP STOMPIN' AROUND THAT WAY, I'LL DO IT!

THUMP THUMP!

SO--HULK MAKES TOO MUCH NOISE--DOES HE??

CRASH!

IN A FIT OF PURE BESTIAL RAGE, ONE BLOW SHATTERS THE DEVICE WHICH BRUCE BANNER HAD BEEN LABORING OVER FOR WEEKS--!

KRUSSK!

OH NO!!

IS-IS THAT WHAT I WUZ THREAT-ENIN'?!!

LIKE SOME SWIFTLY-SOARING BEHEMOTH, THE INCREDIBLE HULK HURTLES SKYWARD, PROPELLED BY THE THRUST OF THE MOST POWERFUL LEGS ON EARTH--!

SEEMINGLY WITHOUT PURPOSE --WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT --THE RAGING RAMPAGER LEAPS ACROSS THE CITY--AS THE HUE AND CRY FROM THOSE BELOW SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE--!

IT'S THE HULK!! HE'S IN THE AIR-- RIGHT ABOVE US!

SOMEBODY'S GOT TO STOP HIM!

WITH--THAT MONSTER AT LARGE-- NOBODY IS SAFE--!!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE EVENING SKIES ABOVE THE SPRAWLING METROPOLIS ARE ABLAZE WITH SHRILL, PROBING FINGERS OF LIGHT, AS ONE URGENT PURPOSE OVER-SHADOWS ALL ELSE--

FIND THE HULK!

--AND, AS THE GRIM, UNCEASING SEARCH CONTINUES--

THE TITANIC *OBJECT* OF IT ALL LANDS UPON A LONELY PROMONTORY ACROSS THE MURKY HUDSON...

LIGHTS IN THE SKY!! MEN SEARCH --FOR SOME-THING--!

THE SAME THING THEY *ALWAYS* HUNT--THE SAME THING THEY ALWAYS TRY TO *KILL*--

THEY SEARCH FOR-- THE *HULK*!!

WHY??! WHY IS THERE *NO PLACE* FOR THE *HULK*??

WHY IS EVERY MAN THAT *LIVES*-- MY *ENEMY* ??!

IF ONLY I COULD *ESCAPE* FROM HERE!! IF ONLY I COULD GO SOMEWHERE *ELSE*--

--IF THE HULK COULD ONLY REACH--THE *STARS*!!

SUDDENLY, AMAZINGLY, AS THO IN *ANSWER* TO THE GREEN GOLIATH'S TORTURED PRAYER, A *NEW* LIGHT FLASHES THRU THE SKY--A LIGHT FAR *DIFFERENT* THAN ALL THE OTHERS--

SOMETHING FLASH-ING--OVERHEAD!! CAN'T BE A *PLANE*-- MOVING TOO *FAST*!

TURNING--ZOOMING AROUND--WITH NO NOISE--NO SOUND OF *ENGINES*--!!

CAN ONLY BE--*ONE* THING--!

FLYING SAUCER-- FROM ANOTHER *WORLD*--FROM SOMEWHERE-- OUT *THERE*!

MAYBE THOSE WHO *FLY* IT-- ARE *DIFFERENT* THAN OTHER MEN!!

MAYBE--THOSE IN SHIP--WOULDN'T *HATE* THE HULK!!

MAYBE-- THEY WOULD *TAKE* ME --WITH THEM--!

THEN, MOVING WITH A BLAZING *SPEED* THAT BELIES HIS PONDEROUS BULK, THE INDESCRIBABLY POWERFUL LEVIATHAN HURLS HIMSELF *SKYWARD* ONCE MORE--HARDLY DARING TO HOPE THAT SOMEHOW-- WITHIN THE GLEAMING SHAPE ABOVE--HE MAY FIND-- *PEACE*!

HAVE TO *CATCH* THE SAUCER-- BEFORE IT GETS AWAY!

BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE HULK GET WITHIN HAILING DISTANCE, WHEN--

ARGHHHH!

SOMETHING-- FORCING ME-- *BACK*!!

SOMETHING *STRONGER*-- STRONGER THAN *HULK*!!

CAN'T LET IT ESCAPE!!

NOTHING THAT LIVES--CAN BEAT--THE HULK!! --NOTHING!!

HAVE TO HOLD ON!! --NO MATTER WHAT!!

BUT--GOING SO FAST--CAN'T SEE WHAT I'M HOLDING!!

FEELS COLD!! COLDER THAN ANYTHING--HULK EVER FELT BEFORE--!

THOK!

SOMETHING --HIT ME!! CAN'T HOLD ON--!!

UHH!

SINCE HE DOESN'T POSSESS THE POWER OF ACTUAL FLIGHT--BUT MERELY LEAPS INTO THE AIR--WHENEVER THE FORCE OF THAT LEAP IS BROKEN--THE HULK CAN DO NOTHING BUT PLUMMET BACK TO EARTH--!

FALLING--DOWN TO GROUND!!

CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

BOOM

SECONDS LATER, A BATTERED, ACHING, GREEN-SKINNED FIGURE SLOWLY LIFTS HIMSELF FROM THE SUNKEN PIT OF CEMENT WHICH HIS OWN GAMMA-POWERFUL BODY HAD CREATED--

AND THEN, THE BURNING, UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE OF THE STRONGEST MORTAL ON EARTH BEGINS TO WELL, AND SEETH, AND ERUPT INTO A BLAZING CAULDRON OF WHITE-HOT, BESTIAL FURY--!

HE'S LANDING!!! HE'S COMING RIGHT TOWARD ME--!!

NOBODY GETS AWAY WITH ATTACKING THE HULK!!

NO MATTER WHO HE IS--OR WHAT HE IS--HE MUST PAY FOR THAT--!

BUT, THE FIGURE WHO NOW FACES THE INCREDIBLE HULK SEEMS TO BE STRANGELY, COMPLETELY, UTTERLY UNMOVED BY THE HUMAN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION WHO THREATENS HIM--!

NO MERE HUMAN THREATS-- NO POSSIBLE EARTHLY POWER-- CAN AFFECT THE DESTINY-- OR STAY THE HAND, OF--
THE SILVER SURFER!!
PREPARE FOR SUPER-SPECTACLE BEYOND MORTAL KEN WHEN THIS EXCITEMENT-PACKED EPIC IS
HULK-INUED
NEXT ISSUE!!

THE INCREDIBLE

HULK and THE SUB-MARINER

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES TO ASTONISH™

MARVEL™ COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 93 JULY

"HE WHO STRIKES THE SILVER SURFER!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"HE WHO STRIKES THE SILVER SURFER"

THINKING HE HAS SIGHTED A *FLYING SAUCER*, THE WORLD'S STRONGEST MORTAL *PURSUES* IT, HOPING TO BE TAKEN TO SOME *FAR DISTANT PLANET* WHERE HE WILL BE HOUNDED NO LONGER! BUT, THE *HULK'S* DESPERATE WISH TURNS TO SEETHING *RAGE* WHEN HE LEARNS THAT HE HAS FOUND INSTEAD--THE *SILVER SURFER*--!

YOU SEEK TO *INJURE* ONE WHO MOVES WITH THE *SPEED* OF THE SHRIEKING *SPACE-WIND?!!*

MOVE AS FAST AS YOU *WANT!* SOONER OR LATER I'LL *CONNECT*-- AND WHEN I *DO*--!!

HULKILY PRESENTED BY:
SMILIN' STAN LEE and MIRTHFUL MARIE SEVERIN
MASTERS OF HULKOLOGY!

HULKAMOROUSLY INKED BY: FRANK GIACOIA

HULKIFICALLY LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

IT'S THE ACTION EPIC OF THE YEAR--SO LET'S NOT WASTE A SMASHING, SHOCKING SECOND OF IT--!

ONCE I GET MY *HANDS* ON--

UHHH...!!

BACK, YOU BESTIAL, BLUDGEONING *BRUTE!* YOU KNOW NOT *WHOM* YOU OPPOSE!

LET A SIMPLE, SKY-BORN *FORCE FIELD* HOLD YOU AT A DISTANCE WHILE I *SPEAK--*

MY WORDS MUST PROVE THE *FOLLY* OF YOUR ATTACK!

ONCE I RODE THE *SKY-WAYS* --SPANNING *GALAXIES* IN A SINGLE FLIGHT-- SERVING AS *HERALD* TO THE GREAT *GALACTUS!*

BUT, FOR DARING TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RACE FROM MY MASTER'S ONSLAUGHT, HE HAS MADE ME *EARTHBOUND!!* NEVER-MORE MAY I SURF AMONG THE DISTANT STARS!

YET, MY *POWER* STILL REMAINS! MY LIMBS POSSESS THE MATCHLESS FORCE OF THE *COSMOS* ITSELF!

NO FORCE IS STRONGER THAN THE *HULK!*

YOU *MUST* TAKE ME TO ANOTHER WORLD!

NOBODY REFUSES THE *HULK--!*

MY *WORDS* WERE WASTED UPON YOU! THEREFORE, LET MY *ACTIONS* SPEAK--!

A SIMPLE, SWIFT-ACTING *COSMIC BOLT* WILL HURL YOU BACK!

NO! NO! NO!

NOTHING STOPS THE HULK-- *NOTHING! NOTHING--!*

NOTHING!

THOK!

HAH! YOU DIDN'T EXPECT HULK TO BE SO STRONG! NOW--IT'S TOO LATE--!

NOW--TAKE ME AWAY FROM EARTH--TO ANOTHER WORLD --IN THE SKY-- WHERE HULK CAN BE--FREE!

NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH RAW, SAVAGE STRENGTH WITHIN A LIVING MORTAL--!

YET, INSTEAD OF ANGER, MY HEART FEELS PITY FOR YOU--!

PITY!?? THE HULK WANTS NO PITY!!

NOTHING CAN HURT ME! NOTHING CAN BEAT ME! NOTHING CAN STOP ME! NOTHING!!

WAIT!! I HIT YOU-- WITH ALL MY STRENGTH-- BUT YOU STILL TALK-- YOU AREN'T HURT!!

I AM THE SILVER SURFER! MY BODY CAN BEAR THE BRUNT OF A METEOR SWARM!!

NO!! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE TOO SMALL-- TOO LIGHT!!

LOOK!! HULK CAN LIFT YOU-- LIKE A FEATHER!!

BUT HENCEFORTH --YOU WILL LIFT ME NO MORE!

SWOOSH

NOW--YOU SHALL HAVE A TASTE OF MY AWESOME POWER--!

NONE MAY THREATEN THE PERSON OF THE SILVER SURFER!!

MINUTES LATER, AS A GROGGY GREEN GIANT STARTS TO REGAIN HIS MATCHLESS STRENGTH...

WE'VE *FOUND* HIM! SOMETHING'S *HAPPENED*--HE SEEMS *HURT*! *WAIT*--HE'S STARTING TO GET *UP*--!

HURT OR *NOT*, WE DON'T HAVE THE *ARTILLERY* TO HANDLE SOMEONE LIKE *HIM*!

SEND ALL AVAILABLE UNITS--AND *FAST*

THEN, BY THE TIME THE *HULK* CAN STAGGER TO HIS FEET--

THAT'S *IT*! BATHE 'IM IN YOUR *LIGHTS*! KEEP HIM *BLINDED*--!

POLICE

POLICE

THIS CAN'T HOLD HIM OFF FOR LONG! *NO ONE'S* GONNA BEAT THE *HULK* WITH A FEW BEAMS OF *LIGHT*!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS *CONFUSE* HIM UNTIL THE *FLAME-THROWERS* GET HERE! THEN--*HEY*! HERE THEY *COME*!

WE DIDN'T GET HERE A MINUTE TOO *SOON*!

ALL IT'LL TAKE IS ONE *LEAP* INTO THE AIR FOR HIM TO *ESCAPE* US--!

DON'T WORRY, CHIEF! THESE *FLAME GUNS* WILL KEEP HIM FROM *TRYING* IT!

REMEMBER HIS *POWER*!! DON'T TAKE ANY NEEDLESS *CHANCES*! KEEP OUT OF HIS REACH--AND FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS *EXACTLY*!

GET *READY*! THE *OTHERS* ARE ALL IN POSITION! THIS IS *IT*--!

BEFORE I *LEAVE*, I WILL TAKE ONE LAST LOOK, AND--*WAIT*!

THE GREEN-SKINNED ONE IS *SURROUNDED*!! HE IS BEING *ATTACKED*!

IT'S *WORKING*! SO LONG AS OUR *FUEL* HOLDS OUT, WE CAN STOP HIM FROM *JUMPING* BY SHOOTING THE *FLAME* OVER HIS HEAD!

WE ONLY HAVETA *HOLD* 'IM FOR ANOTHER FEW MINUTES!

THE *ATOMIC TANKS* ARE ALREADY ON THE WAY!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH HULK *WARNS*--YOU KEEP *HOUNDING* ME!! BUT, NOT ANY *MORE*!

I'LL MAKE SURE *NO ONE* EVER BOTHERS HULK *AGAIN*!

WHERE ARE THOSE *TANKS*?? HE'S GETTIN' READY TO *ATTACK* US! IF THEY DON'T GET HERE *SOON* WE'RE *IN* FOR IT!

LOWER THE BLANKET OF FLAME OVER HIM!! WE CAN'T TAKE ANY *CHANCES*!

AND, HIGH ABOVE THE DRAMATIC TABLEAU, A PAIR OF ALIEN *EYES*--COLD, UNBLINKING, INSCRUTABLE--YET, STRANGELY *COMPASSIONATE* --WITNESSES THE ENTIRE SCENE--

MEN! OF ALL WHO LIVE, *NONE* ARE CRUELER TO THEIR OWN KIND THAN *THEY!*

AS THEY ONCE HEARTLESSLY TREATED *ME** --SO DO THEY NOW PERSECUTE THE TRAGIC, UNCOMPREHENDING FIGURE BELOW!

*IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S REFERRING TO, *THAT'LL* TEACH YOU NOT TO MISS ANY MORE ISSUES OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*--SQUARE-SHOOTIN' STAN!

FIRE HOLDS NO FEARS TO ONE WHO HAS SKIRTED THE RIMS OF COUNTLESS BLAZING *SUNS*--!

I CAN REMAIN AN IDLE BYSTANDER *NO LONGER!*

THOUGH I HAVE NAUGHT TO *GAIN* BY INTERFERENCE, I DO WHAT I *MUST!*

SUCH IS THE *WAY* OF THE *SILVER SURFER!*

HOLD IT!! DOUSE THOSE FLAMES!! THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE--!!

BUT--*LOOK* AT 'IM! HE'S RIDIN' A *SURFBOARD*-- RIGHT ON THE EMPTY *AIR!!*

I REMEMBER *READIN'* ABOUT SOMEONE CALLED THE *SILVER SURFER*-- BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A *GAG!*

YOUR *HAND*-- *QUICKLY!*

THOUGH I SENSE *NO EVIL* IN THOSE WHO ATTACK YOU, MY SYMPATHIES ARE NOT WITH *THEM*--FOR YOU ARE BUT A HUNTED OUTCAST-- LIKE *MYSELF!*

YOU AGAIN! LET *GO* MY HAND! THE HULK DON'T *NEED* YOU-- DON'T NEED *ANYONE!*

ALL WHO LIVE NEED *SOMEONE!*

THEN--YOU'LL *TAKE* ME--AWAY FROM EARTH--? SOMEWHERE *ELSE*--WHERE I CAN STOP *RUNNING!*

EVEN GREAT *GALACTUS* NEEDED A *HERALD!*

THAT IS THE ONE THING I *CANNOT* DO!!

BY ORDER OF *GALACTUS*, I AM *MYSELF* EXILED TO THIS MAD PLANET!

YOU LIE!

NO ONE LIES TO *HULK!*

I DO NOT LIE!! I AM THE SILVER SURFER!

HE'S GOT TO LAND SOMETIME--AND WHEN HE DOES--THAT'S WHEN I'LL GET HIM!

YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE--SAFE FROM THOSE WHO HATE YOU--AND FEAR YOU--BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND!

THUS, I SHALL RETURN YOU TO THE GROUND BELOW--

WHILE I SOAR SKYWARD AGAIN, TO RIDE THE SCREAMING WIND AS I WAS BORN TO DO--!

NAH! YOU CAN RIDE WHERE YOU WANT TO--BUT NOT WITH THAT BOARD!

IF YOU WON'T RIDE IT UP TO THE STARS--THE HULK WILL!

NO! YOU MUST NOT--!

TOO LATE! NOW--NOTHING CAN STOP ME!

COME BACK! IT IS HOPELESS! NONE BUT I MAY COMMAND THE BOARD!

THOOM!

-UNNN!- BOARD CHANGING DIRECTION! CAN'T STOP IT--!

KRAK!

SSSS

SSHHOOOOOMM

BUT, SUCH IS THE POWER OF THE INCREDIBLE GAMMA RAYS THAT CREATED HIM--THE MORE THE HULK EXERTS HIMSELF, THE STRONGER HE BECOMES--

NOTHING CAN GET AWAY FROM HULK!! NOTHING!! NOTHING!!

SKREEEEEE

ENOUGH!! EVEN THE PATIENCE OF THE SILVER SURFER IS NOT WITHOUT ITS LIMITS!

NONE MAY ALTER THE COURSE OF MY CELESTIAL SURF BOARD!! NONE!!

FOR THE POWER OF THE COSMOS IS STILL SUPREME!

KK-KK-KK

A SHOCK! LIKE A MILLION LIVE WIRES-- ALL AT ONCE!!

CAN'T HOLD ON!

THROK!

SPLAW!

NEVER CAN THESE EARTHLINGS COMPREHEND--THE SURFER AND HIS BOARD ARE TRULY ONE!

THUS, HAS IT EVER BEEN--THUS SHALL IT EVER BE!

BUT, EVEN NOW, THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT RECOVERS!

NOW, HIS ARMS ENCOMPASS THE GRANITE WALL BEFORE HIM--AND HE WRENCHES IT LOOSE!!!

SKRAZZK

HIS FINGERS BITE INTO THE SHEER ROCK AS THOUGH IT IS SOFT MUD!

NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN BEAT THE HULK!!

NOTHING!

ONLY MY SPACE-BORN SPEED SAVED ME!

BUT NOW--

NO LONGER SHALL THE SILVER SURFER BE BUT A TARGET FOR A HUMAN'S RAGE!!

SO UNLIKELY A CHARADE MUST NOW BE ENDED!

WHASP!

FOR, VIOLENCE BORN OF VIOLENCE CAN BUT BREED NEW VIOLENCE--

UNTIL NAUGHT REMAINS BUT DESOLATION-- AND ETERNAL RUIN!

YET, THERE IS MUCH THAT IS BAFFLING WITHIN YON MIGHTY FRAME!

I MUST LEARN MORE OF THE MYSTERIOUS BEING WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE HULK!

LET HIS *MIND* NOW REMAIN AT *REST!*

USING A MENTAL BEAM OF PUREST *COSMIC ENERGY,* I SHALL PROBE THE INNERMOST RECESSES OF HIS SLUMBERING BRAIN--!

ALREADY AN *IMAGE* BEGINS TO FORM--ONE WHICH IS BOTH STRANGE--AND STARKLY *OMINOUS!*

WITHIN SWIFT, FLEETING *SECONDS*--EMPLOYING A POWER WHICH WE MERE MORTALS CAN ONLY *GUESS* AT--THE *SILVER SURFER* EXTRACTS A VISUAL MEMORY OF THE FATEFUL *PAST* FROM WITHIN THE CLOUDED BRAIN OF THE SLEEPING GIANT--

SO! A CHANCE *ACCIDENT*--DURING A *GAMMA RAY* EXPLOSION--TRANSFORMED *DR. BRUCE BANNER* INTO THE CREATURE WHO LIES BEFORE ME!

HOW *WELL* I KNOW THE FEELING OF *DESPAIR,* OF SENSELESS *LONGING,* WHICH MUST HAUNT THAT BRUTAL BRAIN!

FOR, I, *TOO,* HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED BY AN UNHEEDING *FATE!*

YET, *HERE,* WITHIN MY FINGERS, IS THE POWER TO *CHANGE HIS DESTINY*--FOREVER!

ONE SKILLFUL *COSMIC BURST* WILL RID HIS BODY OF ALL *GAMMA CELLS!* HE WILL BE *NORMAL* AGAIN!

BUT, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, A PAIR OF COLD, UNBLINKING *EYES* SUDDENLY SNAP OPEN--AS A DAZED, THROBBING *BRAIN* COMPLETELY *MISINTERPRETS* THE SURFER'S INTENTION--

YOU!! ATTACKING ME--!! WHEN I CAN'T FIGHT *BACK!*

NO! YOU DON'T UNDERST-- -*UNHHHH!*-

BTOK!

THE *HULK* UNDERSTANDS--*EVERYTHING!!*

BUT, THERE IS *ONE* THING THE HULK DOES *NOT* UNDERSTAND --AND THAT IS--

--WITH A SINGLE, THOUGHTLESS BLOW, HE HAS *THROWN AWAY* THE GREATEST *OPPORTUNITY* OF HIS TRAGIC LIFE--!

I SOUGHT TO *BEFRIEND* YOU, BUT, IN THE MANNER OF *HUMANS*, YOU *TURNED* UPON ME!

A MONSTER YOU *ARE* --AND SO SHALL YOU *REMAIN!*

LET ME THEN *BEGONE!*

I MUST EVER AVOID ALL *CONTACT* WITH HUMANS-- FOR TRULY, THEY ARE A RACE GONE *MAD!*

ONLY *HERE*, CRESTING THE ENDLESS WINDS, CAN I FIND *PEACE!*

THOUGH THE *STARS* ARE DENIED ME, MY *COSMIC POWER* IS STILL SUPREME!

SO LONG AS LIFE ENDURES-- THE *SILVER SURFER* SHALL SOAR HIGH-- AND *FREE!*

AND, AS THE GLISTENING FIGURE STREAKS SILENTLY OVER THE HORIZON, THE MAMMOTH, LUMBERING *HULK*--NOW RECOVERED FROM A *COSMIC BLAST* THAT WOULD HAVE SHATTERED A *WAR TANK* --WATCHES HIM FADE FROM SIGHT WITH MOUNTING *DESPAIR* WELLING WITHIN HIS HEART--

HE IS *GONE!* NOW--I AM TRAPPED HERE ON EARTH-- *FOREVER!*

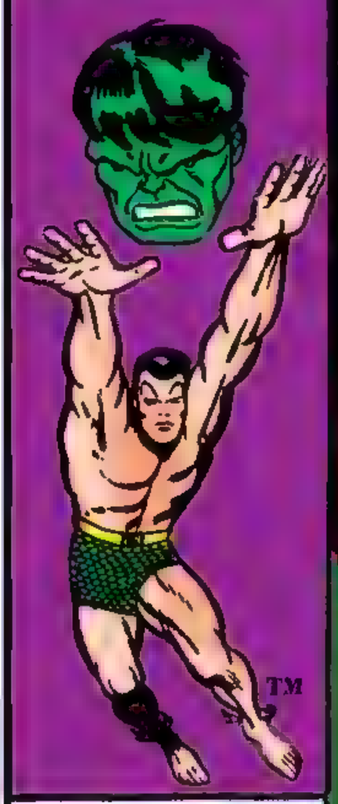
BUT, *SOME DAY* I'LL FIND HIM--I'LL *MAKE* HIM TAKE ME OUT THERE--AMONG THE *STARS*-- WHERE FRIGHTENED MEN WILL HOUND ME--*NO MORE!*

NEXT:
"THE NEW MAN!"

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES TO ASTONISH



MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 94 AUG

PRINCE NAMOR.. HELPLESS AT THE HANDS OF DRAGORR!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"..TO THE RECKONING STARS!"

ALONE, FRIENDLESS, NOT KNOWING WHERE TO TURN, NOR WHOM TO TURN TO, THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* GIVES VENT TO HIS FURY---HIS FRUSTRATION ...LIKE THE VENGEFUL, RAMPAGING *TITAN* THAT HE IS--!

I'M *BIGGER*-- I'M *STRONGER*-- THAN *ANYBODY!* THAT'S WHY THEY *FEAR* ME--THAT'S WHY THEY ALL *HATE* THE HULK!

THERE'S NO PLACE ON *EARTH* FOR ME TO GO!! MEN WILL *HUNT* ME... *HOUND* ME--*FOREVER!*

ALSO FEATURING... "THE NEW MAN"

WE DON'T KNOW HOW ANY-ONE AS UTTERLY ADORABLE AS *SMILIN'* *MIRTHFUL* **STAN LEE** and **MARIE SEVERIN** CAN DO SUCH A GREAT JOB ON THE HIDEOUS HULK, BUT THEY *DO!*

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE OF *HERB TRIMPE'S INKING* and *SAM ROSEN'S LETTERING* QUIEN SABE?

FINALLY, HIS UNREASONING RAGE SPENT AT LAST, THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH SLOWLY TURNS... TO FACE THE BREAKING DAWN...

A NEW DAY...A NEW SUNRISE--FOR EVERY-ONE...

BUT, FOR THE *HULK*...IT MEANS ANOTHER DAY OF *RUNNING*...OF *HIDING*.. OF *HATING!*

WHOEVER THE SUN *SHINES* ON--EVERYONE THAT *LIVES*... IS MY *ENEMY!*

IF ONLY I COULD REACH... THE *STARS!!*

MAYBE...OUT *THERE*... THERE'S A PLACE--FOR THE *HULK!*

SUDDENLY, A STACCATO *GUN-BURST* INTERRUPTS THE GIANT'S REVERIE ---

KRR-AK

A SHOT!

ARE THEY AFTER ME..SO *SOON?!!*

NO! THEY DIDN'T FIRE AT *ME!*

IT'S SOMEONE BEHIND THOSE *ROCKS!* I'LL GO AND *SEE!*

THIS SHOULD SATISFY EVEN *HIM!*

I *STILL* DON'T LIKE IT!

WHY SHOULD WE SERVE *HIM?* FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE INTENDS TO *DESTROY* US ALL!

WE ONLY *STUNNED* THE CARIBOU! *HE* WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE *USE* OF IT!

YOU *FOOL!* WE HAVE *NO CHOICE!*

THE *NEW MAN!* EVEN HIS *NAME* SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY--- *WAIT!!*

YOU KNOW THE *POWER* OF THE *NEW MAN!!* DO YOU THINK HE'D EVER LET US *DESERT* HIM??

IT..IT'S..THE *HULK!!*

HE'S COMIN' *TOWARDS* US--!!

L--LOOK!

I HEARD YOU *TALK!*

WHO *IS* NEW MAN? WHAT IS HIS *POWER?*

DON'T *TRY* TO SHOOT HIM! DON'T TRY *ANYTHING!!* WE WOULDN'T HAVE A *CHANCE!!*

RUN!! MAYBE WE CAN *OUT-DISTANCE* HIM!!

STOP!!! *COME BACK!!* HULK WANTS TO *TALK...* WANTS TO *LEARN* ABOUT *NEW MAN!* HULK SAYS *STOP!!*

I *TOLD* YA WE SHOULD'A *QUIT!!* I'D RATHER FACE THE *NEW MAN..* THAN *HIM!!*

I COULD *DROP* YOU *BOTH..* WITH JUST ONE *THROW..!*

SKRUNTCH!

BUT..WHY *BOTHER??*

SOMEDAY MEN WILL COME *BACK!!* WILL *WANT* TO TALK TO HULK! BUT IT WILL BE *TOO LATE!*

THEY *HAD* THEIR CHANCE! NOW, *HULK* MAKES RULES!

THIS IS *MY* LAND!! WHOEVER CROSSES LINE ...ANSWERS TO *ME!*

MEANWHILE...

WE'VE GOT TO SEND A *MESSAGE* ...TELL WHAT WE *FOUND!*

HURRY! BEFORE HE COMES *AFTER* US!! NOTHING ON *EARTH* CAN STOP THE *HULK!!*

BUT, ALTHOUGH THE TWO PANICKY, TREMBLING HUNTERS DO NOT *REALIZE* IT, THE MESSAGE WHICH THEY FEARFULLY SEND IS *NOT* BEAMED AT ANY DESTINATION ON *EARTH*...

CALLING *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!!* CALLING *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!!*

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! COME IN--- *COME IN!* WE NEED *HELP!* COME *IN,* HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!

IT'S NOT *RIGHT!* WE USE *HIS* RADIO --- BEAMED TO SOME *SECRET* LOCATION!

WHY WON'T HE *TELL* US... *WHO*, OR *WHERE* HE IS??

SHUDDUP! I THINK I'M *GETTING* SOMETHING!

THIS IS *STATION FIVE* REPORTING!! COME *IN*--!!

THIS IS *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!!* TALK *FAST!* EVERY MOMENT IS PRECIOUS!

WHATEVER PROBLEM *YOU* MAY BE FACING... *MINE* IS FAR MORE SEVERE --- FAR MORE *DEADLY!*

YEAH? IS IT DEADLIER THAN --- THE *HULK?!!*

HE'S IN THE *HILLS* HERE.. RIGHT *NEAR* US! WE CAN'T *STAY* ANY LONGER!

THE HULK?!!

THEN YOU *MUST* STAY! YOU MUST *SEND* HIM TO ME --- AT *ALL* COSTS!

I HAVE ONLY *ONE* REMAINING SPECIMEN! SOON, THERE WILL BE *NONE*... NONE TO SAVE ME -- FROM THE *NEW MEN!!*

IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!!* HOW CAN *WE* MANAGE TO SEND YOU THE *HULK??* HOW CAN WE EVER *SUBDUE* ANYONE LIKE *HIM?*

USE THE *SPECIAL* RIFLE PELLETS I PROVIDED! THEY CAN STOP ANY-THING THAT *LIVES!* AND *HURRY!*

ONCE I HAVE THE *HULK*... YOU NEED SERVE ME *NO LONGER!*

OKAY! YOU *WANTED* TO QUIT WORKING FOR HIM --- HERE'S YOUR *CHANCE!* TAKE THE GUN --- *YOU'RE* THE BETTER SHOT!

NO! I CAN'T... I *WON'T!!* NOT AGAINST... THE *HULK!*

DO IT... OR I FINISH YOU --- RIGHT *NOW!*

BUT.. IF I *MISS!!* NOBODY CAN HAVE A SECOND CHANCE --- AGAINST *HIM!*

THEN MAKE SURE YOU *DON'T MISS!*

NOW GET *MOVIN'!* IF THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY* SAYS THOSE PELLETS'LL *STOP* 'IM, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR *ME!*

EVER SINCE WE WERE *HIRED*... TO SHIP HIM SPECIMENS --- IT'S BEEN --- LIKE A *NIGHTMARE*--!

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO GET *OUT* OF IT.. SO DON'T *BUNGLE* THE JOB!

STOP *TREMBLING,* BLAST IT! *YOU'VE* GOT THE GUN! WHAT'RE YOU SO *SCARED* OF?

NOBODY.. NOT THE *POLICE*... NOT THE *ARMY*... COULD EVER DESTROY THE *HULK!!*

HE'S NOT *HUMAN!* HE'S A... *MONSTER!*

CARIBOU STILL ALIVE! MAYBE HULK CAN *HELP!* CARRY IT TO *WATER*...!

AT THAT VERY SECOND--- AN INCALCULABLE DISTANCE AWAY--WE SEE---

THE *NEW MEN* ARE TOTALLY OUT OF *CONTROL!* THEY'RE RUNNING *WILD*...DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!

MY FINAL EXPERIMENT HAS *FAILED!* I'M *ALONE*.. ON AN ALIEN PLANET... WITH NO HOPE--- NOTHING TO *FIGHT* WITH--!

UNLESS--BY SOME *MIRACLE*.. THE *HULK* CAN REACH ME IN TIME!

THUMP!

IF ONLY I HADN'T *DONE* IT!! IF ONLY I HAD NEVER *BEGUN* THOSE ACCURSED EXPERIMENTS..!

"BUT, I *HAD* TO PROVE MY THEORY.. HAD TO PROVE THAT I COULD SPEED UP AN ANIMAL'S NATURAL *EVOLUTION*.."

WITHIN A FEW SECONDS ---I'LL *KNOW* IF I'VE SUCCEEDED---!

IF MY EXPERIMENT *WORKS*, I'LL HAVE TRANSFORMED THAT SIMPLE BEAST INTO THE BEING HE MIGHT *BECOME*...IN A THOUSAND THOUSAND *YEARS!!!*

"AND, I DID IT! I *DID IT!!*"

I'VE BECOME THE MASTER OF *EVOLUTION* ITSELF!

"SOON, I HAD *TRAINED* MY SUPER-BEASTS---OR, *NEW MEN*, AS I CALLED THEM! I CREATED A NEW *KNIGHTHOOD* IN THE LAND OF *WUNDAGORE*.."

HERE WE SHALL LIVE--UNDISTURBED BY THE *HUMANS!*

ALL HAIL THE MASTER!!

ALL HAIL THE NOBLE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!!

BUT THEN, THE MIGHTY *THOR* FOUND A *SAFER* PLACE FOR US THAN *WUNDAGORE*..!

A *PLANET* WHERE WE COULD DWELL ALONE...FREE TO FOLLOW OUR OWN DESTINY!*

"AT FIRST, I THOUGHT WE HAD FOUND *UTOPIA!* OUR LITTLE CIVILIZATION THRIVED AND FLOURISHED IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY..."

*BETCHA THOUGHT WE'D FORGET TO MENTION THAT THE WHOLE SWINGIN' SAGA WAS DULY AUTHENTICATED IN *THOR* #135!..SLY OL' STAN.

"UNTIL...IT *HAPPENED!* SLOWLY AT FIRST, SO GRADUALLY THAT I ALMOST DIDN'T NOTICE...MY *NEW MEN* REVERTED BACK TO THEIR *BESTIAL* HERITAGE...!"

"UNTIL, LIKE A MAD, RAGING *FLOODTIDE*, THE SAVAGERY.. THE WANTON *DESTRUCTIVE-NESS*..INCREASED BEYOND BELIEF..!"

THEIR BRUTAL, UNHUMAN *INSTINCTS* HAVE TAKEN *OVER* AGAIN!!

WITH THEIR *SUPER-STRENGTH*... THEIR NEW *POWER*... THEY'RE DESTROYING A *WORLD!*

I HAVE TRIED TO FIND *NEW* SPECIMENS.. TO EXPERIMENT UPON...TO FIND A *REMEDY* FOR THIS MADNESS..

BUT..IT IS *TOO LATE!* ALL ELSE HAS *FAILED!*

NOW, I STAND *ALONE*..

WHILE THE *WORLD* I HAVE CREATED..TOPPLES DOWN IN *RUINS* ALL ABOUT ME!

AND, BACK ON *EARTH*, SOMETHING *ELSE* IS ABOUT TO TOPPLE, TOO!! READY? HERE GOES...

YOU *DID* IT! YOU *GOT* 'IM!

PTOWW!

ANOTHER *SHOT!!*

GAS..SPREADING OUT...ALL AROUND ME!!

THAT'S WHY HE SAID THE PELLET WOULD STOP THE HULK---
IT RELEASES SOME STRANGE KIND OF GAS!
CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES!! I'LL FIRE AGAIN--!
UNHHH--!
PTOWW!
HE'S STILL STANDING!! WHY DOESN'T HE FALL?!!

ONLY TWO PELLETS!!
IF THEY COULDN'T DO IT---!
WAIT!! LOOK--HE'S REELING--THE GAS IS GETTING TO HIM--!!
NO ONE--CAN STOP--THE HULK--!

--NO ONE--!
THUD!

WE GOT 'IM!!
WE DOWNED THE HULK!

A SHORT TIME LATER--
SEND HIM TO ME AT ONCE--AND YOU NEED SERVE ME NO LONGER!

MISTER--YOU GOT YOURSELF A DEAL!
JUST MAKE SURE WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S INSIDE YOUR SHIP STAYS THERE TILL WE'RE GONE!

HURRY!! IF THE GAS SHOULD WEAR OFF BEFORE HE'S INSIDE--
I'M MOVIN' AS FAST AS I CAN!
I DON'T WANNA GET ANY CLOSER TO THE THING THAT'S WAITING INSIDE THERE THAN I HAVE TO!
OKAY! THE MECHANISM'S ALL SET--!
CLICK!

THEN, AT LAST..

LET'S NOT PUSH OUR LUCK ANY *FURTHER!*

WE GOT HIM *IN* HERE... NOW, LET'S GET *GOING!*

YOU'RE *RIGHT!* IT'S TOO *DANGEROUS* TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER!

AND THERE'S NO SENSE TRYING TO PUT HIM INSIDE A *CAGE...*

THERE ISN'T A CAGE *BUILT* THAT'LL HOLD THE *HULK!!*

THUS, SECONDS LATER...

BEFORE LEAVING, YOU ARE NOW ORDERED TO *DESTROY* ALL THE *EQUIPMENT* WHICH REMAINS!

MISTER... IT'LL BE A *PLEASURE!*

THE SHIP'S *TAKING OFF!*

SHOOM!

I'M HOPING IT'S THE LAST WE'LL EVER *SEE* OF IT!

WHERE DO YOU THINK HE'S *HEADED* FOR?

I DON'T *KNOW* ...AND I DON'T *WANNA* KNOW!

NOW GRAB YOUR GEAR.. AND LET'S *GIT!*

WE HOPE YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT'LL *HAPPEN* WHEN THE POTENT GAS BEGINS TO *WEAR OFF* OUR HAPLESS HERO... BECAUSE IT'S JUST ABOUT THAT TIME NOW...

UHHH..HEAD... DIZZY...

MUST HAVE BEEN *ASLEEP!* HARD TO *REMEMBER* ANYTHING..! DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM...!

FOOTSTEPS! COMING TOWARD ME..GETTING CLOSER..!

HEAVY FOOTSTEPS!! HEAVIER THAN ANY ORDINARY *MAN!* BUT THEN... *WHO* CAN IT BE..?

THUD! THUMP! THUMP!

I MUST INSPECT THE *CARGO* WHILE THE SHIP FLIES ON *AUTOMATIC PILOT!*

NOT MANY *SPECIMENS* THIS TIME!

THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY* WILL BE *DISPLEASED!*

WAIT! WHAT SORT OF CREATURE IS *THIS?*

AND WHY IS IT NOT *CAGED*... LIKE THE *OTHERS?*

DESPITE ITS GREAT *SIZE*... AND UNNATURAL *SKIN COLOR*... IT SEEMS TO BE *HUMAN!*

IT STRAINS AGAINST ITS *BONDS*... AS THOUGH ATTEMPTING TO... *WHA--?!!*

THOSE CHAINS COULD HAVE RESTRAINED THE MOST POWERFUL *ELEPHANT!*

FTASK!

SKRAK!

NO CHAINS CAN HOLD THE *HULK!*

PTAK AK!

HULK IS STRONGER THAN A *HUNDRED* ELEPHANTS!!

I KNOW NOT THE MEANING OF THE WORD *HULK*...

BUT, A *KNIGHT OF WUNDAGORE* DOES NOT *RETREAT*.. NO MATTER *HOW* MIGHTY HIS FOE!

THWAK!

STAY BACK!! HULK DOESN'T WANT TO *HURT* YOU!!

BUT, YOU *CHAINED* ME.. TRIED TO MAKE ME *PRISONER*..!

WHAT KIND OF THING *IS* THIS??

LIKE A *MAN*... BUT ALSO..LIKE *ANIMAL!*

WHERE DID HE *COME* FROM? WHY AM I *HERE* WITH HIM..??

THEN, SLOWLY... UNCOMPREHENDINGLY.. THE GREAT, LUMBERING RAMPAGER TURNS... AS HIS STARTLED EYES BEHOLD ...

ALL *AROUND* ME... *STARS*...CLOSER THAN I EVER SAW THEM...!

I DON'T KNOW..HOW IT *HAPPENED*..

BUT, AT LAST...I'M LEAVING *EARTH!*

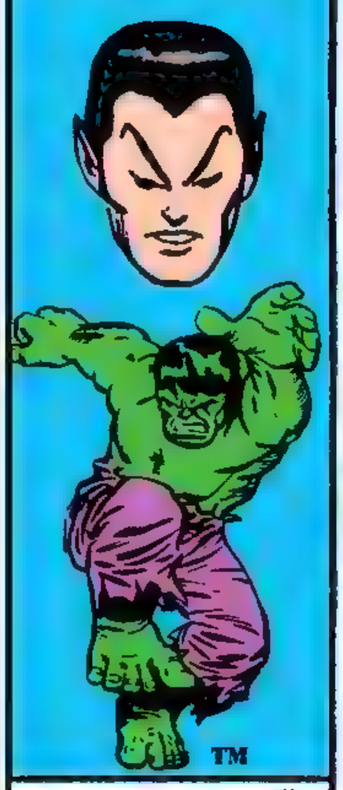
I'M GOING INTO THE *SKY*.. TO SOME *NEW WORLD*...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I'LL LIVE..OR DIE...

ALL THAT MATTERS IS...

THE *HULK* WILL HAVE..A *SECOND CHANCE!*

NEXT... "A WORLD HE NEVER MADE!"



THE INCREDIBLE

HULK

and Prince Namor, THE SUB-MARINER™

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

"A WORLD HE NEVER MADE!"

GGGGRRRRR HULK!

MARVEL™ COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 95 SEPT

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"A WORLD HE NEVER MADE!"

THROUGH A STARTLING SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, THE MOST *POWERFUL* MORTAL ON EARTH FINDS HIMSELF ON A FANTASTIC *SPACE SHIP*, HURTLING TOWARDS THE STARS!

ALTHOUGH THE INCREDIBLE *HULK* HAS NO WAY OF GUESSING HIS DESTINATION, WE WHO WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO READ THE LAST ISH KNOW THAT HE SOON WILL CONFRONT THE MYSTERIOUS...THE UNCANNY... *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY*...SOMEWHERE IN *DEEPEST SPACE!!*

WHEREVER THIS SHIP IS HEADING..IT'S LEAVING *EARTH!* ...AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE *HULK!*

A STARTLING, SPECTACULAR, STAR-STUDDED SENSATION, BY:

SMILIN' STAN LEE and *MAGNIFICENT* MARIE SEVERIN

EMBELLISHED BY: HERB TRIMPE

LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

A VOICE... COMING FROM THAT RADIO!!

PLANET WUNDAGORE II, CALLING SIR RAM!! PLANET WUNDAGORE II, CALLING SIR RAM!!

CALLING SOMEONE

DO YOU RECEIVE ME? COME IN, SIR RAM!!

WUNDAGORE?? SIR RAM??

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

SIR RAM!! DO YOU HAVE PRISONER ON BOARD? I MUST KNOW! COME IN, SIR RAM!

SO...HE WANTS AN ANSWER..!!

THE HULK IS ON BOARD!! BUT THE HULK IS NOBODY'S PRISONER!!

THIS IS THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY CALLING SIR RAM! YOUR SHIP IS IN DANGER!

HE DOESN'T HEAR ME!

DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE HIM HEAR ME!

DON'T KNOW WHAT BUTTONS TO PUSH...OR WHAT KNOBS TO TURN!!

BUT HULK DOESN'T CARE!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO ME?!!

ALL THAT MATTERS IS... I'M LEAVING EARTH!!

MEN WON'T HOUND ME ANY MORE!! I'LL BE FREE! FREE!!

THAK

I CANNOT REACH THE SHIP!! SIR RAM DOES NOT ANSWER! BUT I MUST REACH HIM! I MUST!!

ACCORDING TO MY RADAR STAR-TRACKER, HE'S HEADED FOR A COSMIC STORM!

HE CAN ONLY SAVE HIMSELF BY FOLLOWING MY INSTRUCTIONS!!

BUT, I CAN'T SAVE HIM WITHOUT RADIO CONTACT!

IN ANOTHER FEW MINUTES..IT WILL BE TOO LATE!! ..TOO LATE..FOR ANYTHING!

CONTROLS KEEP BUZZING--LIGHTS FLASH ON AND OFF---

BUT NONE OF IT MEANS ANYTHING TO HULK!

THE PILOT WILL UNDERSTAND!

I'LL GO FIND HIM! HULK DIDN'T HIT HIM TOO HARD.. HE SHOULD BE AWAKE NOW--!

CARGO

AND, SO, HE WHO HAD BEEN DR. BRUCE BANNER, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS, LUMBERS THROUGH THE SHIP-- SAVAGELY UNCONCERNED ---SENSELESSLY UNCOMPREHENDING..!

...WHILE THE PILOTLESS SPACECRAFT HEADS STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART OF A DEADLY COSMIC STORM---!

AND, AS THE FATEFUL SECONDS SPEED BY---

ONLY THE INCREDIBLE HULK HAS ENOUGH POWER TO SAVE ME FROM THE MONSTERS I'VE CREATED!

IF HE SHOULD BE LOST TO ME NOW, THEN MY ENTIRE LIFE'S WORK SHALL HAVE BEEN--- IN VAIN!

HE MUST MAKE IT!!

HE MUST GET THROUGH!! HE MUST!!

I THOUGHT I HAD CREATED A UTOPIA HERE, ON THIS FAR-OFF WORLD---

BY SPEEDING UP THE EVOLUTION OF ORDINARY EARTH-BEASTS, I TRANSFORMED THEM INTO SEMI-HUMAN, THINKING CREATURES---INTO MY KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE--!

BUT NOW, THEY'VE TURNED SAVAGE AGAIN---MORE WILD, MORE BESTIAL THAN EVER!

I CAN CONTROL THEM NO LONGER!

MY ONLY CHANCE IS.. THE HULK!!

BUT, IF THE COSMIC STORM DESTROYS THE SHIP--THEN ALL HOPE IS---GONE!

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE SEEMINGLY DOOMED SHIP, THE GREEN-SKINNED GIANT RETURNS TO WHERE HE HAD LEFT THE UNCONSCIOUS *PILOT*...

SHIP STILL FLYING -- OUT OF CONTROL... *ANYTHING* CAN HAPPEN --!!

THE *CONTROL ROOM!*.. MUST *REACH* IT!!

MUST SEE.. WHERE WE ARE *HEADING!!*

HULK WILL TAKE YOU THERE!

YOU!! STAY BACK! COME NO *CLOSER!*

EVEN *HERE*... OUT IN SPACE -- THE HULK IS *FEARED!!*

IS THERE *NO PLACE* WHERE I CAN BE *TRUSTED??*... WHERE THE HULK CAN FIND... A *FRIEND??*

I.. DID NOT *REALIZE*.. THAT YOU ---

WAIT!! LOOK THERE... ON THE *VIEW SCREEN!*

ALL I SEE IS *SKY*... WITH DARK CLOUDS AHEAD!

WHY ARE YOU *AFRAID?*

THOSE ARE NO *ORDINARY* DARK CLOUDS..!!

WE'RE HEADING INTO A *COSMIC STORM!!* IF WE CANNOT CHANGE COURSE IN TIME--!!

LOOK OUT!! THE FIRST *BLAST* IS ALREADY *HITTING* US!

SHIP *SHAKING!!* CAN'T *STAND!!* EVERYTHING *SPINNING..!!*

IT'S *OVER!* SHIP IS *STEADY* NOW!

IF I CAN REACH THE *CONTROLS*.. BEFORE THE *NEXT* IMPACT..!

THE SHIP CAN'T *TAKE* ANOTHER SUCH SHOCK!!

BUT PERHAPS... THERE IS STILL *TIME*..!

TELL *HULK* WHAT TO DO! I HAVE *STRENGTH*!! *TELL* ME..!!

YOUR STRENGTH IS *USELESS* TO US *NOW*!

EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON HOW *FAST* WE CAN TURN... BEFORE WE'RE *HIT* AGAIN!

BUT, AT THAT VERY SECOND...

IT'S HAPPENING *AGAIN*! EVEN *WORSE*!!

CAN'T FAIL *NOW*! MUST HOLD CONTROLS... UNTIL.. WE'RE *SAFE*!!

WE *DID* IT!! WE'RE *PAST* THE STORM AREA!!

BUT, WE WERE *TOO CLOSE* TO THE *RAYS*!! THEY'VE *PENETRATED*... THE SHIP..!

RAYS?? WHO CARES ABOUT *RAYS*?!!

YOU SAVED *SHIP*!! YOU DID *GOOD JOB*!! YOU WERE *BRAVE*!

YOU WILL BE... HULK'S *FRIEND*!

WHAT IS THE *MATTER*?? YOU FALL *FORWARD*... YOUR BODY GROWS *LIMP*..!!

THE *RAYS*!! ..I ABSORBED.. *TOO BIG* A DOSE!! ... CANNOT STAND.. CANNOT *BREATHE*...

YOU WILL HAVE TO.. REACH HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.. *ALONE*..!

SECONDS LATER, AS THE MYSTERIOUS *COSMIC RAYS* SLOWLY FADE AWAY, ONE STAGGERING *THOUGHT* PENETRATES THE CLOUDED BRAIN OF THE BEWILDERED *HULK* ...

PILOT IS *DEAD!*

HERE -- IN MYSTERIOUS *SHIP*... SOMEWHERE IN *SPACE*.. HULK IS *ALONE* ONCE MORE!

HE MIGHT HAVE BECAME..MY *FRIEND!!*

BUT NOW... IT IS TOO *LATE!* I *LOST* HIM!!

NO MATTER *WHERE* I GO..IT'S ALWAYS THE *SAME..!*

EVERYONE WHO IS *CLOSE* TO HULK... MUST *SUFFER!*

WHY DIDN'T RAYS KILL *ME*, TOO?? WHY MUST I *LIVE??*

BUT *NOTHING* CAN KILL ME!! *NOTHING* CAN *HURT* ME!!

I AM...THE *HULK!*

BUT, ALTHOUGH HE CANNOT REALIZE IT AT THE TIME, THE POWERFUL *COSMIC RAYS*, PERMEATING THE SHIP, *HAVE* AFFECTED HIM... AND, WITHIN THE NEXT SPLIT-SECOND, THE MOST INCREDIBLE *TRANSFORMATION* OF ALL TIME AGAIN TAKES PLACE ...

I-I'M *CHANGING..!*

I'M GROWING *SMALLER... WEAKER..!*

EVEN MY *SKIN*.. LOSING ITS *GREEN* COLOR!

THEN, FINALLY...

THE HULK IS *GONE!*

I'VE BECOME *BRUCE BANNER* AGAIN!

IF ONLY... I COULD REMEMBER CLEARLY.. WHAT *HAPPENED*... WHERE I *AM..!*

EVERYTHING SO *HAZY*... LIKE A FADING *NIGHTMARE!!*

EXCEPT... I FEEL THAT *THIS* NIGHTMARE..IS JUST *BEGINNING!!*

WHILE, ON THE PLANET WUNDA-GORE II ...

I'M IN LUCK!

I MANAGED TO ACTIVATE THE REMOTE CONTROL VIEWER!

I CAN PEER INTO MY SHIP'S CONTROL ROOM NOW!

BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE THE UNBELIEVABLE CHANGE I JUST WITNESSED!

THE HULK IS ON BOARD... BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM!!

SOMETHING TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A NORMAL HUMAN BEING!

MY TIME IS RUNNING OUT... CAN'T WONDER ABOUT IT ANY LONGER!

I'VE GOT TO GUIDE THE SHIP IN FOR A SAFE LANDING!

ANY LIVING MAN WHO CAN TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO TWO DIFFERENT BEINGS COULD PROVE INCALCULABLY DANGEROUS!!

I'LL BRING MY VACUUM-RAY BLASTER... IT'S THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN MY ENTIRE ARSENAL!

BUT.. IF I CANNOT CHANGE HIM BACK TO THE HULK... IF I CANNOT ENLIST HIS STRENGTH IN THE BATTLE AGAINST MY NEW-MEN...

THEN... HE'LL BE TOTALLY USELESS TO ME!..

UNLESS THIS HAS PROVEN TO BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE..!

IF HE REMAINS IN NORMAL HUMAN FORM.. HE'LL BE TOO WEAK TO DEFY ME!

I MAY FIND ANOTHER ..A STILL MORE DEADLY USE FOR HIM WHEN HE LANDS!

AND, BACK ON THE SHIP ONCE AGAIN ...

THERE'S A MAN ON THE FLOOR..LYING THERE..MOTIONLESS..

NO!! HE..HE ONLY LOOKS MANLIKE!! BUT, WHAT..??

HE'S NEITHER MAN... NOR BEAST... BUT, SOME SORT OF FANTASTIC COMBINATION OF THEM BOTH!

THERE'S NO PULSE.. NO HEARTBEAT!! ..HE'S DEAD!

BUT...WE'RE THE ONLY TWO ABOARD THIS SHIP!! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ...

THE HULK MUST HAVE KILLED HIM!

IF ONLY...WHEN THE *CHANGES* OCCUR...IF ONLY I COULD *REMEMBER!!*

THE SHIP IS *SLOWING DOWN!* I CAN *FEEL* IT!

THERE'S A *PLANET* LOOMING AHEAD..ON THE VIEW-SCREEN!!

BUT... *WHERE??*

WHERE...IN THIS MAD, MYSTERIOUS *UNIVERSE* HAS DESTINY *BROUGHT* ME??

WHAT HAS THE *HULK* TO DO WITH A FLIGHT INTO *SPACE??*

IF ONLY I COULD *REMEMBER..!!*

SOMETHING IS *GUIDING* THE SHIP---BY REMOTE CONTROL!

IT'S *DESCENDING*... INTO A SUB-SURFACE AREA!

SOME SORT OF *DOME* IS CLOSING ABOVE ME!

WHEREVER I AM... *ONE* THING IS CERTAIN...

...I'M *TRAPPED* HERE!

ATTENTION!! I AM THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!!*

YOU HAVE LANDED UPON *WUNDAGORE II* ...AS MY *GUEST!*

WITHIN SECONDS, A *RAMP* WILL BE LOWERED... SO THAT YOU MAY *DESCEND!*

THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY??* *WUNDAGORE II ??*

WHAT FANTASTIC, ALIEN *UNIVERSE* HAVE I STUMBLED INTO ??

THE *RAMP..* IT'S *OPENING!*

THERE'S A *MAN* DOWN BELOW... IN SOME STRANGE ATTIRE...

BUT HE'S UNDENIABLY *HUMAN!*

MAYBE *NOW* I'LL LEARN SOME *ANSWERS!*

SO! YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WAS FORMERLY...THE HULK!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

I SAW WHAT HAPPENED UPON MY SHIP!

BUT, I HAVE LITTLE TIME FOR IDLE TALK--!

NO DOUBT YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS!

AND THE ANSWERS WILL BE FOUND HERE.. WITHIN THE MAIN POWER COMPLEX WHICH I HAVE CREATED

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH MACHINES... SUCH HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED CONTROL ELEMENTS!!

STUNNED BY THE SIGHT THAT GREETS HIS STARTLED EYES, THE SCIENTIST WITHIN BRUCE BANNER FORGETS HIS MYSTERIOUS PLIGHT AS HE GAZES AT THE MARVELS BEFORE HIM IN UNDISGUISED AWE.. UNTIL--

WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD! YOU MAY INSPECT WHAT YOU WISH!

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I TOO AM A SCIENTIST! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET CLOSE TO THOSE CONTROLS!

ALL THESE CIRCUITS... THESE ELECTRONIC POWER PATTERNS... ARE THE WORK OF A SPECIALIST IN BIO-CHEMISTRY!

THERE ARE DEVICES TO INFLUENCE BLOOD CELLS.. BRAIN TISSUES... THE GENETIC PATTERNS OF HEREDITY...

BUT, FOR WHAT PURPOSE??

HE'S IN POSITION NOW... AND HE STILL SUSPECTS NOTHING!

I'VE DONE IT!

ONE BLAST FROM MY VACUUM RAY WILL PREVENT YOUR BODY FROM UNDERGOING ANY NEW PHYSICAL CHANGE--UNTIL I WISH IT!

UHHH!

I CAN'T MOVE!! IT'S AS THOUGH YOU'VE STOLEN.. MY WILL.. FROM ME!

I REGRET THE NECESSITY OF SUCH AN ACT...

BUT I CANNOT TAKE THE CHANCE OF YOU BECOMING THE HULK AGAIN...FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES!

THE.. NEXT FEW.. MINUTES??!

PRECISELY!

WHAT--WILL *HAPPEN*-- DURING THE NEXT--FEW MINUTES--??

THAT *LEVER!* HE'S STARTING TO *MOVE* IT! -- *WHY??*

ZZZZZZZZZ

A GLASS *CAGE*... DESCENDING OVER ME--!

FOR MANY LONG MONTHS, I CONDUCTED MY VITAL, LIFE-CHANGING *EXPERIMENTS* UPON *BEASTS*--TRYING TO FIND THE ULTIMATE ANSWER TO... *EVOLUTION!*

BUT NOW-- THOSE EXPERIMENTS HAVE ALL COME TO *NAUGHT!*

THE *BEASTS* WHOM I CHANGED...INTO A MIGHTY RACE OF *NEW-MEN*...SUCH AS THE PILOT OF THE *SHIP* WHICH BROUGHT YOU HERE -- HAVE ALL TURNED *AGAINST* ME!

I HOPED THAT THE *HULK* WOULD HELP ME PUT DOWN THEIR *REBELLION!*

BUT *FATE* PLANNED DIFFERENTLY! INSTEAD OF THE *HULK*...*YOU* WERE DELIVERED INTO MY HANDS!

AND, THAT MEANS MY EXPERIMENTS CAN *CONTINUE*... FOR I NOW HAVE A *NEW* SUBJECT!!

INSTEAD OF MERE *BEASTS*...I SHALL NOW DARE WHAT HAS NEVER BEEN DARED *BEFORE*...

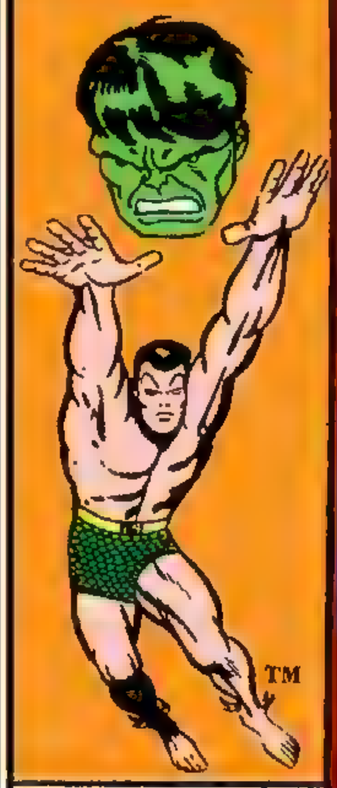
THOUGH WE ALL MAY *PERISH* IN THE ATTEMPT...I SHALL TRANSFORM *YOU* INTO THE TYPE OF BEING THAT WILL WALK THE EARTH...*A MILLION YEARS FROM NOW!*

HE'S *MAD!!* BUT--I'M POWERLESS TO *STOP* HIM!!

SO LONG AS THIS *VACUUM RAY* SURROUNDS ME--

--I CAN'T BECOME-- THE *HULK!!*

NEXT ISSUE:
WHAT HAVE I CREATED?



Prince Namor, SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK in TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. 96 OCT

FEATURING: THE POUNDING POWER OF PRINCE NAMOR!

"SOMEWHERE STANDS... SKULL ISLAND!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"WHAT HAVE I CREATED?"

PICTURE YOURSELF UPON THE DISTANT PLANET, *WUNDAGORE II*, RULED BY THE MYSTERIOUS *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!* GOT IT ... ?

--OKAY! NOW PICTURE THE *HULK*, TAKEN TO THIS SAVAGE WORLD AND TRANSFORMED INTO THE IDENTITY OF *BRUCE BANNER* ONCE AGAIN! THEN, AS HE HELPLESSLY AWAITS HIS FATE, AT THE HANDS OF THE SEEMINGLY-MAD *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY*--

EVERYTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN AT *ONCE*--!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR GREGARIOUS GROUP OF GOOFY, GREEN-SKINNED GREMLINS:

STAN (THE MAN) LEE THE BRIGHTER WRITER	MARIE (THE SHE) SEVERIN THE SMARTEST ARTIST
HERB TRIMPE, THE DISTINCTER INKER	*AL KURZROK,* THE BETTERER LETTERER

--AND *HONEST IRVING,* THE BONY PHONY

AND NOW, WELCOME TO THE WONDROUS WORLD OF MARVEL MYTHOLOGIA---!!

THE *NEW MEN!!* THEY WHO ONCE WERE *BEASTS!* --THEY'VE *BROKEN IN!*

THE FINAL ATTACK HAS *BEGUN!*

IF ONLY THEY HAD *WAITED* --JUST A LITTLE *LONGER!!*

WITHIN A MERE FEW *MINUTES* I'D HAVE COMPLETED THE *GREATEST EXPERIMENT* OF MY LIFE!

I CAN'T *MOVE!!* HIS RAY--IS HOLDING ME-- *PARALYZED--!*

WHY DON'T YOU TURN INTO THE *HULK??*

ONLY *HIS* STRENGTH CAN SAVE ME NOW!

PERHAPS-- IF I *FREE* YOU--THERE'LL STILL BE A *CHANCE--!*

I'VE GOT TO *DO* IT!

ZAP!

BUT, BEFORE THE ILL-FATED *FANATIC* CAN TURN ABOUT AGAIN--

DEATH TO THE HIGH EVOLU-TIONARY!!

THANG!

THOUGH PROTECTED FROM FATAL INJURY BY HIS TEMPERED STEEL *ARMOR*, THE ONCE-SUPREME RULER OF *WUNDAGORE* SLUMPS FORWARD--AS HIS NEARLY *NUMB* FINGERS DESPERATELY GROPE FOR *ONE FATEFUL BUTTON---*

AND THEN--SLOWLY--PAINFULLY--

KUPPK!

INSTANTANEOUSLY, A *PROTECTIVE BARRIER* OF SHIMMERING *ENERGY WAVES* SURROUNDS THE SWAYING MAN--

I'VE *DONE* IT!

I'M *SAFE*--SO LONG AS THE *POWER* LASTS!

THEY'LL *NEVER* BREAK THRU THE BARRIER!

AND, AS THEY STRUGGLE IN *VAIN*, PERHAPS I MAY *YET* DEVISE A NEW *PLAN*!!

YOU!! WHY MUST YOU *FRUSTRATE* ME THIS WAY?!!

WHY DO YOU NOT CHANGE *BACK*--BACK TO THE *HULK*?!!

I *CAN'T*--NOT JUST AT A *WHIM*!

BESIDES--I *STILL* DON'T KNOW --WHAT THIS IS ALL *ABOUT*!

BAH!! I CAN WASTE NO MORE *TIME* ON YOU!

I SET OUT TO CAPTURE THE *HULK*--AND I HAVE FOUND *INSTEAD* A WEAK, POWERLESS *NON-ENTITY*!

WHAT MUST *NOW* BE DONE --THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY* SHALL DO-- *ALONE*, AND UNAIDED!!

WHAT I ONCE *CREATED*-- I SHALL NOW *DESTROY*--

BTANG!

AND, IF I *FAIL*--THEN WE PERISH *TOGETHER*!!

ATTACK!! HE CANNOT STOP US *ALL*!!

BACK! BACK! YOUR MASTER COMMANDS!

IT IS MY DESTINY TO RULE!

NO ONE MUST STOP ME!! THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY IS SUPREME!!

I CAN'T BE SURE OF WHAT I'M SEEING --WITHOUT MY GLASSES--!

BUT, NONE OF THEM SEEM ENTIRELY-- HUMAN!

THEY'RE LIKE BEASTS --STANDING UPRIGHT-- MASQUERADING AS MEN--

BUT, WHO ARE THEY?? WHAT ARE THEY? HOW IS IT POSSIBLE??

ONE OF THEM--IS LOOKING-- THIS WAY--!

HE'S ABOUT TO ATTACK!!

THEY'RE MAD --CONSUMED WITH A BLAZING RAGE!!

THERE'S NO WAY TO REASON WITH THEM-- THEY'RE LIKE BEASTS GONE WILD!!

I'VE GOT TO DEFEND MYSELF--GOT TO FIGHT BACK-- SOMEHOW!!

IF I CAN JUST PULL THIS SPEAR FROM THE--NO!!

TOO LATE!! HE'S ALMOST UPON ME!!

YOU ARE HUMAN --SO YOU MUST DIE!

ONLY WE-- THE BEASTS OF WUNDA-GORE--MUST SURVIVE! FOR WE--AND ONLY WE-- ARE THE MIGHTY NEW MEN!

LET ME DOWN! I'M NOT PART OF THIS MADNESS!

I DON'T BELONG HERE!!

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY CREATED US --BY SPEEDING UP OUR NATURAL EVOLUTION!

AND NOW WE ARE THE MASTERS OF MERE HUMANS!! NOW IT IS WE --THE NEW MEN -- WHO MUST RULE THE UNIVERSE!

AND YOU, THE HUMAN, MUST BE DESTROYED FOREVER!!

NOW, I WILL HURL YOU TO THE OTHERS-- SO THAT THEY MAY-- WHA--?!!

WHAT IS HAPPENING?!! AM I LOSING MY STRENGTH?? I-I CAN HARDLY HOLD YOU ABOVE MY HEAD--!!

NO! YOU ARE NOT --LOSING YOUR STRENGTH--!

BUT I--AM GAINING--MINE!!

THUD!

IT--IS NOT POSSI-BLE!!

BEFORE MY VERY EYES--YOU HAVE GROWN--YOUR SKIN-- HAS CHANGED ITS COLOR--!!

WHAT MANNER OF BEING ARE YOU?? ARE YOU MAN--OR BEAST--OR --WHAT??

I AM THE HULK!

NOTHING CAN HARM ME!! NOTHING CAN BEAT ME!!

AND NOW--I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DARE ATTACK THE STRONGEST MAN ALIVE--!!

UPON HIM-- QUICKLY!!

CRUSH HIM--SMOTHER HIM BY YOUR WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!

HE IS ONLY ONE --ALONE--AND UNARMED!!

AND WE ARE THE NEW MEN--THE KNIGHTS OF WUNDA-GORE!!

I AM ALONE!!

AND I AM UNARMED--!

BUT, I AM ALSO-- THE HULK!!

WHAM

HE HAS DONE IT! HE HAS TRANSFORMED HIMSELF--INTO THE ALL-POWERFUL HULK!!

BUT, FOR ME --IT IS TOO LATE!

I HAVE BEEN WOUNDED--TOO SEVERELY!! THERE IS NO MORE HOPE! THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY --IS-- DYING--!!

AND YET-- PERHAPS--

PERHAPS --THERE IS STILL --ONE CHANCE--!

ONE LAST-- DESPERATE --DEADLY GAMBLE!

THERE IS ONE FINAL EXPERI-MENT-- I HAVE NEVER YET PERFORM-ED--!

THE GREATEST EXPERIMENT OF ALL!

ALTHOUGH I HAVE-- SUCCEEDED IN SPEEDING UP--THE EVOLUTION OF --WILD BEASTS--

I HAVE YET TO USE--MY MIRACULOUS RAY--UPON A--HUMAN SUBJECT!!

I CANNOT EVEN GUESS-- WHAT THE RESULT WILL BE--

BUT--WHAT DOES IT MATTER??

I'VE ONLY MINUTES LEFT--TO LIVE!! I HAVE NOTHING-- TO LOSE!

IT WILL BE-- MY CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT--MY GREATEST TRIUMPH--MY MOMENT OF SUPREME GLORY!

SO LONG AS THE HULK KEEPS BATTLING-- I'LL HAVE A CHANCE --TO COMPLETE THE EXPERIMENT--

UPON MYSELF!!

POK!

SINCE I HAD EXPECTED --TO DO THIS-- TO THE ONE I HAD CAPTURED --EVERYTHING IS--- IN READINESS!

I HAVE ONLY --TO LIE DOWN --AND PRESS THE BUTTON!!

NOW!

WITHIN SECONDS-- I SHALL BECOME-- WHAT MAN WILL BE-- AT THE END OF--A MILLION YEARS!!

KLIK!

THE CHANGE IS *BEGINNING* --I CAN *FEEL* IT--!

NOW-- IT WILL GO FASTER-- AND *FASTER*-- UNTIL--

BLOOM

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, HE WHO HAD BEEN THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY* IS SEEN *NO MORE!* NOR IS THERE ANY TRACE REMAINING OF THE *APPARATUS* UPON WHICH HE HAD LAIN--!

EVERYTHING-- *GONE!!* ALL THE BEAST MEN-- *UNCONSCIOUS!!*

NOTHING *LEFT*-- EXCEPT --THE *HULK!*

NO! THERE IS *SOMETHING*-- UP *THERE*--

CAN'T MAKE IT *OUT*--! CAN'T TELL-- WHAT IT *IS*--!

SOMETHING-- *FLOATING* IN AIR--ABOVE ME!!

TALKING TO ME--WITH A *VOICE*-- THAT I ONLY HEAR--IN MY *HEAD!!*

I AM THE ULTIMATE!! I AM THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF HUMAN EVOLUTION!

MY BRAIN PERCEIVES ALL THAT WAS--ALL THAT IS--ALL THAT CAN EVER BE!!

THEREFORE, I HAVE NO FURTHER REASON TO EXIST!! I MUST NOW BECOME--ONE WITH THE ETERNAL COSMOS!!

BUT, BEFORE I ACCEPT MY ULTIMATE DESTINY--I SHALL UNDO THAT WHICH HAS BEEN DONE!

FOR, I KNOW AT LAST --THAT NONE MAY TAMPER WITH THE MYSTERIOUS DESIGN OF NATURE--JUST AS NONE MAY ALTER THE GOSSAMER FABRIC OF FATE!

HE LOOKS AT THE *BEAST MEN* --AND-- THEY *RISE!!*

BUT--SOMETHING IS *HAPPENING* TO THEM--

THEY'RE *CHANGING*--TURNING BACK--TO WHAT THEY ONCE *WERE*--!

HE DID IT TO THEM!! I DON'T KNOW *HOW* --BUT--IT WAS *HIM!!*

BUT--WHAT OF *ME*?? WHAT OF THE *HULK*??

I'M ON A STRANGE *WORLD*-- ALONE WITH NOTHING BUT *BEASTS*!!

ON *EARTH*--MEN HUNTED ME--*HOUNDED* ME!! I DREAMED OF A NEW LAND --WHERE I COULD LIVE IN *PEACE*!!

BUT NOT *HERE*--NOT LIKE *THIS*--NOT IN A WORLD OF *EMPTINESS*!

EVEN THE HATRED OF *MEN* IS BETTER THAN --*THIS*!!

HE'S--*FADING AWAY*--!

NO!! YOU *CAN'T*!! NOT *YET*--!

YOU CAN'T *LEAVE* ME HERE!! IF YOU *DO*--I'LL NEVER REST--TILL I *FIND* YOU--TILL I MAKE YOU *PAY*!!

NO MATTER *WHAT* YOU ARE--OR WHERE YOU *GO*-- YOU'LL ANSWER TO--THE *HULK*!!

MY THOUGHTS ARE FADING--AS I ENTER THE UNI-VERSAL MIND!!

BUT THIS SHALL BE MY FINAL MORTAL ACT--

LET ALL BE AS IT WAS! LET ALL BE AS THOUGH THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY-- HAD NEVER EXISTED!

AND THEN--INSTANTANEOUSLY --A UNIVERSE AWAY--

CAN THE HULK *NEVER* REACH --THE *STARS*??

OR WILL I ALWAYS BE *EARTHBOUND* --TRAPPED ON A WORLD THAT *HATES* ME--!

WITH NO PLACE TO GO--NO ONE TO *TURN* TO--

DOOMED TO LIVE IN MY OWN LONELY *PRISON*--

--IN THE BODY OF--THE *HULK*!

NEXT *the* LIVING LIGHTNING!

THE INCREDIBLE

HULK

Prince Namor,

SUB-MARINER™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES TO ASTONISH

INTRODUCING:

"THE LEGION OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING!"

MARVEL™ COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. 97 NOV

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

THE LEGIONS OF: THE LIVING LIGHTNING

THE LATEST, THE GREATEST SMILIN' MADCAP
STAN LEE and MARIE SEVERIN
LITERARY AND ARTISTIC SMASHEROO!

INKED BY: HOWLIN' HERB TRIMPE

LETTERED BY: SCOWLIN' L.P. GREGORY

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?

--WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED!

LEAPING INTO THE *AIR*, VIA THE MOST POWERFUL LEGS IN ALL THE WORLD, THE GARGANTUAN *HULK* ACCIDENTALLY *COLLIDES* WITH A LOW-FLYING JET--AND THAT'S *IT*--!

AS ALL TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW, OUR HERO *LEAPS* RATHER THAN *FLIES*--HENCE, ANY SUDDEN *COLLISION* CAUSES HIM TO PLUMMET EARTHWARD--JUST AS *YOU* WOULD IF YOU WERE *HIT* WHILE HIGH-JUMPING...

HOWEVER, IF YOU POSSESSED THE INDESCRIBABLE *STRENGTH* OF OUR GREEN-SKINNED BEHEMOTH, YOU'D BE AS *UNAFFECTED* BY THE PLUNGE AS *HE* IS--!

IF THE PILOT IS *KILLED*--

IT WILL BE THE *HULK'S* FAULT!

CRASH!

BUT PLANE WAS FLYING *LOW*--

GLIDED MOST OF THE WAY DOWN!

MAYBE PILOT IS STILL *ALIVE!*

I DIDN'T *MEAN* TO HIT PLANE! DON'T WANT TO HURT *INNOCENT* PERSON!

HE FELL *CLEAR* OF WRECK!

FLAMES HAVEN'T *REACHED* HIM YET!

HAVE TO GET HIM *OUT* OF THERE!

THOOM!

HE'S STILL *ALIVE!* I CAN FEEL HIS *HEART* BEAT!

I'LL TAKE HIM TO *TOP* OF MOUNTAIN-- AWAY FROM *FLAMES*-- WHERE AIR IS *CLEAR!*

MAYBE--IF HE TELLS *OTHERS*-- THAT I *SAVED* HIM--

PEOPLE WON'T *HATE* THE *HULK* ANY MORE!

MAYBE I CAN STOP *RUNNING*-- STOP *HIDING!!*

MAYBE I CAN *LIVE* LIKE ANY-ONE ELSE!

LATER, ATOP A TOWERING PEAK, ACCESSIBLE ONLY TO THE INCREDIBLE *HULK*--

I STOPPED THE BLEEDING IN HIS ARM--AND PUT A *SPLINT* ON HIS LEG!

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! HE'LL OPEN HIS *EYES* SOON!

MEN! SO WEAK--SO *HELPLESS!* WHY IS NO ONE AS STRONG AS *I* AM??

BUT, EVEN *WITH* MY STRENGTH--I SPEND MY LIFE *HOUNDED*--LOOKING FOR A PLACE WHERE --*WAIT!*

HE'S *MOVING!* HE'S WAKING UP! ANY MINUTE NOW--HE'LL SEE--THE *HULK!*

HE'LL BE LIKE ALL THE *OTHERS!!* HE'LL TRY TO *RUN*--TO GET *AWAY* FROM *ME!* HE WON'T *WAIT*--WON'T *LISTEN!*

OR ELSE--IF HE GETS A CHANCE--HE'LL TRY TO *KILL* ME!

BUT *NO ONE* CAN KILL THE *HULK!*

I HATE *ALL* MEN!! I SHOULD HAVE *LEFT* HIM THERE!

HE *SEES* ME!

WHAT *HAPPENED??* WHERE *AM* I--??

I *REMEMBER* NOW!--A *MONSTER*--LEAPED INTO THE *SKY*--AND--AND--

IT--IT WAS--*YOU!*

WHY? WHY DID YOU *DO* IT?

WEAK FOOL!! YOU THINK *HULK WANTED* TO HURT YOU??

YOU THINK *HULK CARES* ABOUT *ANY* PUNY, POWERLESS STRANGER?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT--YOU WERE JUST--A *MONSTER!*

BUT, YOU CAN *TALK*--YOU CAN *THINK!*--YOU CAN *UNDERSTAND!!*

AND--WITH YOUR LIMITLESS *STRENGTH*--PERHAPS--WE CAN ACTUALLY *USE* YOU!!

WE?? WHO IS *WE??* NOBODY CAN USE THE *HULK!!*

WAIT! LISTEN TO ME!

I KNOW YOU'RE AN *OUTCAST*--WITH NO PLACE TO TURN! BUT, IT CAN BE *DIFFERENT!*

TAKE ME WHERE I WAS *GOING*--TO THE *LIVING LIGHTNING*--AND I'LL *CHANGE* ALL THAT FOR YOU--!

THE LIVING LIGHTNING??!

HULK WILL CARRY YOU WHERE YOU WANT!

BUT IF YOU LIE--!

NO! YOU CAN TRUST ME--YOU CAN BELIEVE ME!!

WOULD ANYONE DARE TO LIE TO SOMEONE AS POWERFUL AS YOU???

NO ONE IS POWERFUL AS HULK!

TELL ME WHICH WAY TO GO! HULK CAN JUMP ANYWHERE!!

IT'S DUE WEST--JUST OVER THE RIVER BELOW!

YOU'LL SEE A YELLOW, DIAMOND-SHAPED MARKER ON THE GROUND--!

SECONDS LATER, AFTER ONLY TWO BREATH-TAKING LEAPS...

THERE IT IS--DIRECTLY BELOW US!

NOBODY THERE!! NOTHING BUT MARK ON GROUND!

SLOW DOWN! YOU'RE DROPPING TOO FAST! THE SHOCK--!

CAN'T SLOW DOWN! HULK WILL CUSHION FALL--WITH LEGS!!

BUT, THOUGH THE GREEN GOLIATH ABSORBS MOST OF THE SHOCK OF IMPACT WITH HIS OWN INCREDIBLE BODY--HIS INJURED COMPANION SLUMPS TO THE GROUND ONCE MORE--AS UNCONSCIOUSNESS AGAIN SWEEPS OVER HIM--

HOWEVER, THE BEWILDERED HUMAN BEHEMOTH SOON FINDS ANOTHER MATTER TO OCCUPY HIS ATTENTION--AS WE CAN SEE--!

GIANT DOORS--OPENING UP--IN SIDE OF MOUNTAIN!!

MEANWHILE, AT ONE OF THE MANY SMALL, HAM RADIO STATIONS OF THE FAR-FLUNG **TEEN BRIGADE**--

IT'S **NO USE**! I'VE CONTACTED OUR MEMBERS FROM COAST-TO-COAST!

THERE'S NOT A **TRACE** OF THE HULK--ANYWHERE!

WHY IS HE SO **IMPORTANT** TO YOU ANYWAY, RICK?

SOONER OR LATER THE **ARMY** WILL POLISH HIM OFF!

THAT'S WHAT I'M **HUNG-UP** ABOUT, LES! IT **MUSTN'T** HAPPEN!!

EVERYONE THINKS THE **HULK** IS JUST A RAMPAGING, UNCONTROLLABLE **KILLER**-- WHO OUGHTTA BE **SHOT** ON SIGHT!

DAILY RECORD

HULK STILL MISSING!

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

BUT HE'S **NOT**!

AND **I'M** THE ONLY ONE WHO **KNOWS** HE'S NOT!

BUT--IF I CAN'T **FIND** HIM--I CAN'T **HELP** HIM!

STILL, YOU'VE GOTTA **ADMIT**-- IT'S HARD TO FEEL **SORRY** FOR A GUY LIKE THE **HULK**!

AND, AS THOUGH TO PROVE THE **VERACITY** OF THAT LAST REMARK, HERE ARE TWO GENTS WHO FEEL **LESS** SORRY FOR OUR HERO THAN **ANYONE**--

YOU **HEARD** ME, TALBOT! I'M ORDERING YOU TO **GIVE UP** THE SEARCH FOR THE **HULK**!!

BUT, I'M GETTING **CLOSE**, SIR! I **KNOW** IT!

DO YOU THINK I **WANT** THE SEARCH TO STOP??

MY DAUGHTER STILL **LOVES** THAT MONSTER--OR, AT LEAST, THE **MAN** THAT HE ONCE WAS!

I'LL NEVER REST EASY TILL HE'S SAFELY **LOCKED UP**!

BUT OUR **NEW** MISSION IS EVEN **MORE** URGENT--MORE **VITAL**!

VERY WELL, GENERAL! I'LL BEGIN **OPERATION LIGHTNING** IMMEDIATELY!

YOU'RE THE TOP **INTELLIGENCE MAN** IN MY COMMAND, TALBOT! IF **ANYONE** CAN DO THE JOB-- IT'S **YOU**!

I--KNOW HOW YOU FEEL--ABOUT **BETTY**, MAJOR! IF ONLY **YOU** WERE THE MAN SHE LOVED!

BETTY **WOULD** LOVE ME--I **KNOW** IT--IF ONLY **BRUCE BANNER** WERE OUT OF THE WAY!

AND ONCE THE **HULK** IS DEFEATED-- IT'LL BE THE END OF **BANNER**, TOO!

IF ONLY THE THREAT OF THE **LIVING LIGHTNING** HADN'T COME ALONG! WE KNOW SO LITTLE **ABOUT** THEM--EXCEPT HOW **DEADLY** THEY ARE!

AND, AS WE RETURN TO THE *HULK*, IT SEEMS THAT HE *TOO* MIGHT WISH THERE WERE NO SUCH THING AS--THE *LIVING LIGHTNING*--!

ZAK!

A *LIGHTNING BOLT!* SHOOTING OUT AT--*UNGHH!!*

THEN-- IT *WAS*-- A *TRAP!*

BUT *NO* LIGHTNING CAN STOP THE *HULK!!*

NO MATTER *WHAT* IT IS--I'LL *RIP IT APART!!* I'LL SMASH IT INTO *NOTHING!*

THOO

KRUNCH!

NOTHING CAN HARM THE *HULK!*

AND, AS ALL TRUE *HULKOPHILES* KNOW FULL WELL-- THE LONGER HE *FIGHTS*, THE *MADDER* HE GETS!

AND, THE *MADDER* HE GETS, THE *STRONGER* HE GETS--!

ZSSK

BUT SUDDENLY, THE *SECOND* "ARM" OF THE STRANGE DEVICE FIRES A BOLT WITH ENOUGH POWER TO LEVEL AN *ARMORY*--!!

AND, *MIGHTY* AS THE HULK MAY *BE*--

HE IS *STILL* ONLY FLESH AND BLOOD..

THUS, THE FINAL RESULT SEEMS ALMOST *INEVITABLE*, AS HIS GIGANTIC FORM TOPPLES TO THE GROUND--!

WITHIN MINUTES, AS A WORK CREW BEGINS TO ERASE THE TELL-TALE MARKER, THE MOTIONLESS *HULK* IS DRAGGED BEYOND THE MYSTERIOUS, OVERSIZED *DOORS*--

QUICKLY, BEFORE WE ARE *OBSERVED!*

SECONDS LATER, A TRANSISTORIZED *TRUTH INDUCER* IS DIRECTED AT THE INJURED PILOT, AS COLD, MERCILESS EYES OBSERVE THE ENTIRE GRIM TABLEAU...

SPEAK! THE *LORD OF THE LIGHTNING* NOW STANDS BEFORE YOU!

YOU HAVE RE-TURNED IN *FAILURE!*

EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

I HAD *NO CHOICE!* THE *MISSILE BASE* WAS TOO CLOSELY GUARDED!

BUT, I HAVE BROUGHT A *CAPTIVE* FOR THE *LIVING LIGHTNING!*-- IF WE CAN DUPE HIM-- INTO *SERVING* US--

AIDED BY THE POWER OF THE *HULK*--YOU COULD BE--*SUPREME!*

FOOL!! THE LORD OF THE LIGHTNING IS *ALREADY* SUPREME!

AND YET, YOUR NOTION *INTRIGUES* ME!

TO HAVE THE *HULK* FOR AN *ALLY*-- *HMMMM...*

THE MINDLESS, GREEN-SKINNED *SAVAGE* SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO *DECEIVE!*

I SHALL *GO* TO HIM--*ALONE*-- TO PROVE MY *TRUST!*

HE WILL BECOME MY HELPLESS *PAWN*--OR HE WILL *DIE!*

LET THE POWER OF THE *LIVING LIGHTNING* BE NOW *REMOVED!*

THE HULK IS OUR *FRIEND!* HE MUST NOT BE *HARMED!*

I AM THE *LORD OF THE LIGHTNING!*

I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT YOU HAVE *SAVED* ONE WHO SERVES ME!

THEREFORE, I AM IN YOUR *DEBT!* TO SHOW MY *GRATITUDE*, I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO *JOIN* US!

HULK JOINS *NO ONE!*

THIS MAY BE MORE *DIFFICULT* THAN I EXPECTED!

YOU MUST LET ME *EXPLAIN* TO YOU...

NO!

YOU TRIED TO *HURT* HULK! TRIED TO *CAPTURE* ME!

--JUST LIKE EVERYONE *ELSE!* BUT *NOBODY* CAN HURT THE *HULK!*

STOP! YOU'RE *WRONG!* YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND!*

THIS IS THE MOMENT--TO MAKE MY PITCH--TO *CONFUSE* THE BRUTE!

I *KNOW* THAT ALL MEN HAVE BEEN YOUR *ENEMIES*--

BUT I AM *NOT!* YOU WILL FIND *FRIENDS* HERE--COMPANIONS WHO WILL *ACCEPT* YOU!

NEVER *AGAIN* WILL YOU HAVE TO *RUN*--OR *HIDE!*

YOU *LIE!* YOU TRY TO *FOOL* HULK!

IT'S *WORKING!* HE'S BEGINNING TO *WAVER!*

WHY SHOULD *YOU* BE DIFFERENT? WHY SHOULD *YOU* BE HULK'S FRIEND?

HE *WANTS* TO BELIEVE ME! HE WANTS ME TO *CONVINCE* HIM!

COME WITH ME--I'LL *SHOW* YOU!

THESE ARE MY *SUB-LEADERS*--MEN DEDICATED TO OUR GREAT *CAUSE!*

THEY COME FROM *EVERY NATION!* WE ARE UNITED IN *BROTHERHOOD* HERE! JUST AS *YOU* WILL BE UNITED *WITH* US!

THE BRAINLESS BEAST IS *CALMING DOWN!* IT MEANS--I'VE *WON!*

AND NOW, I SHALL SHOW YOU WHAT OUR GREAT *PURPOSE* IS--!

BUT FIRST, WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT OUR HONORED GUEST IS REFRESHED!

SERVE THE HULK SOME *COFFEE*-- AND PREPARE A *FEAST* FOR HIM, IF HE WISHES IT!

THEY CALLED ME-- *HONORED GUEST!* THEY TREAT ME -- LIKE A *FRIEND!*

AND NOW, I HAVE A SPECIAL *FILM* PREPARED--TO SHOW YOU!

IT'S ALMOST *TOO* EASY! SOON, HE WILL DO *ANY-THING* FOR ME!

JUST COME WITH ME--MY *FRIEND!*

THOSE ARE SCENES OF *WAR*--MEN FIGHTING-- AND KILLING--!

EXACTLY! THAT'S WHAT MY *LIVING LIGHT-NING LEGION* IS PLEDGED TO *DESTROY!*

WHEN *WE* TAKE CONTROL OF THIS COUNTRY, WE WILL *ABOLISH* WAR-- AND HATRED!

AND I OFFER *YOU* THE CHANCE TO *HELP* US IN THIS GREAT CAUSE!

BEWILDERED--UNCERTAIN--THE HULK ALLOWS HIM-SELF TO *BELIEVE!* AND SO...

WHERE SHOULD HULK *PUT* THIS?

HE'S LIFTING IT WITH *ONE HAND!*

EVEN WITH A *CRANE*-- IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN US *DAYS!*

THIS IS *TOO EASY!* WHEN DOES HULK *FIGHT?*

BUT, EVEN AS THE UNWITTING TITAN TIRE-LESSLY LABORS WITHIN THE HIDDEN STRONGHOLD...

I *KNEW* IT! OUR REPORTS WERE *CORRECT!*

I'VE *FOUND* THE SECRET HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE *LIVING LIGHTNING LEGION!*

WHEN *SHIELD* FIRST TIPPED US OFF ABOUT THEM, WE THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST A NUTTY BUNCH OF *CRANKS!*

BUT, THEIR DEADLY NEW *WEAPONS*-- AND THEIR MAD, FANATICAL *ZEAL*--

--MAKES THEM ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS *THREATS TO FREEDOM* THAT THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER *KNOWN!*

I MUSTN'T WASTE A *SECOND!* I'VE GOT TO ALERT OUR TROOPS TO THEIR LOCATION *IMMEDIATELY!*

MOMENTS LATER...

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT MY GUARDS HAVE CAPTURED AN ENEMY *SPY*!

HULK-- COME WITH ME!

I WILL SHOW YOU THE FATE OF THOSE WHO DARE *OPPOSE* US!

I *KNOW* HIM! HE'S THE ONE WHO ALWAYS *HUNTS* ME! THE ONE WHO *HATES* ME!

HULK! SO YOU'RE ONE OF THEM! I SHOULD HAVE *GUESSED*!

I ALWAYS *KNEW* YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A *SPY*-- A *TRAITOR*-- AND THIS *PROVES* IT!

BUT, NO MATTER *WHAT* HAPPENS TO *ME*--YOU WON'T GET *AWAY* WITH IT!

FREEDOM CAN'T BE DESTROYED BY MURDEROUS FANATICS--EVEN IF THEY'RE HELPED BY A MONSTER LIKE *YOU*!

HULK WILL HEAR *NO MORE*!

THESE MEN ARE HULK'S *FRIENDS*!

IF ARMY TRIES TO *FIGHT* THEM--HULK WILL *CRUSH* ARMY! *NOBODY* HURTS HULK'S FRIENDS!

THWOP!

THIS IS MY CHANCE-- WHILE HE'S *FIGHTING-MAD*!

THEN *DO* IT, HULK! GO TO THE ARMY BASE *NOW*! DE-*STROY* IT--BEFORE THEY CAN *ATTACK* US!

HULK WILL *SMASH* BASE-- EASY AS *THIS*!

NOTHING WILL STOP THE *HULK*!

HULK-INUED

NEXT ISSUE!

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES TO ASTONISH

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

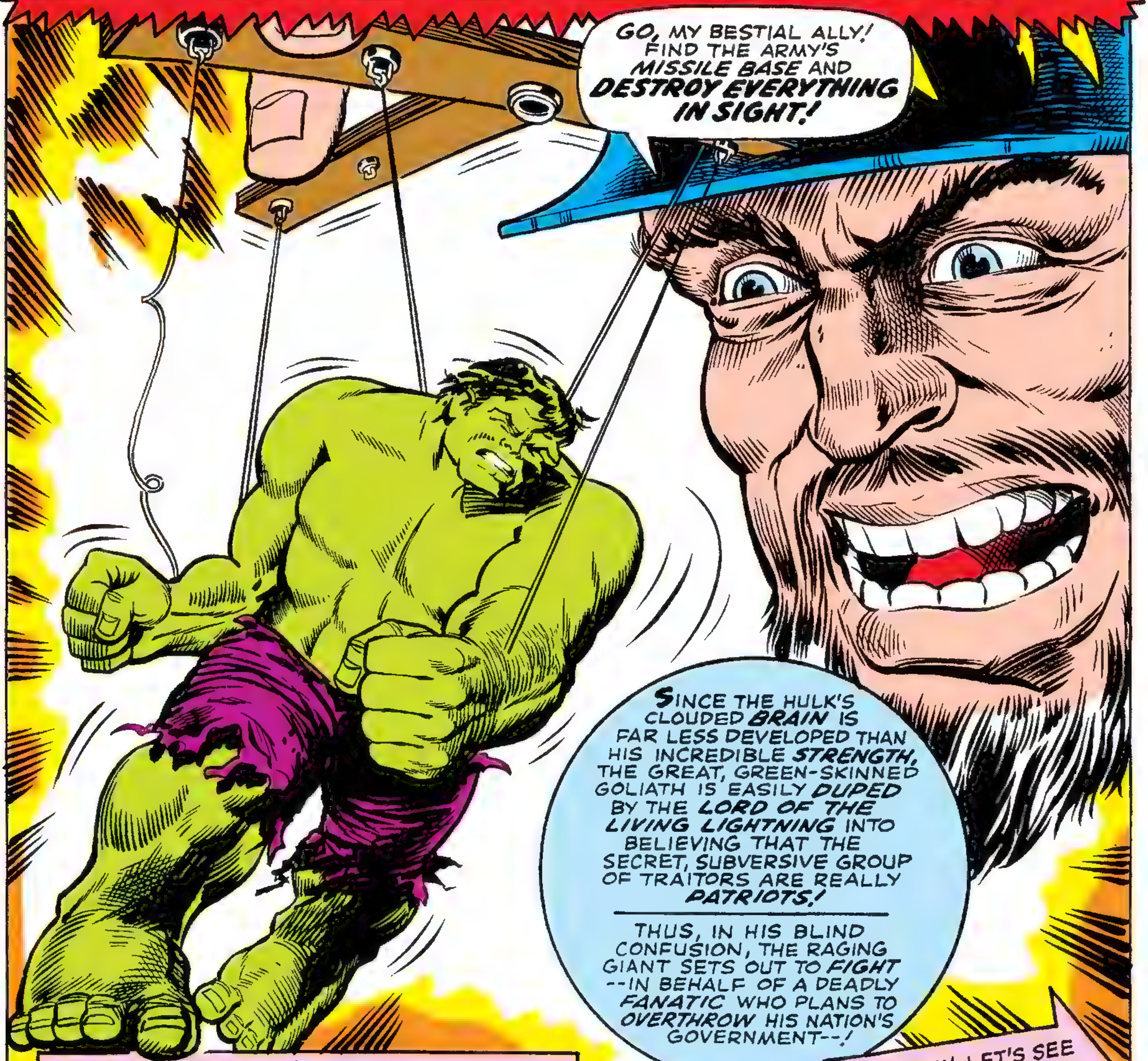
12¢ IND. | 98 DEC

MCG

"...TO DESTROY THE REALM ETERNAL!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

"The PUPPET and the POWER!"


GO, MY BESTIAL ALLY! FIND THE ARMY'S MISSILE BASE AND DESTROY EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!
SINCE THE HULK'S CLOUDED BRAIN IS FAR LESS DEVELOPED THAN HIS INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, THE GREAT, GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH IS EASILY DUPED BY THE LORD OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING INTO BELIEVING THAT THE SECRET, SUBVERSIVE GROUP OF TRAITORS ARE REALLY PATRIOTS!
THUS, IN HIS BLIND CONFUSION, THE RAGING GIANT SETS OUT TO FIGHT --IN BEHALF OF A DEADLY FANATIC WHO PLANS TO OVERTHROW HIS NATION'S GOVERNMENT--!
AND NOW, LET'S SEE WHERE ALL THIS BOMBASTIC BUILD-UP IS LEADING US--

STAN (THE MAN) LEE and MARIE (THE SHE) SEVERIN
HAVE COME UP WITH ANOTHER SMASHEROO!

ABLY AIDED BY: HERB TRIMPE, INKER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

I'VE *SUCCEEDED*-- BEYOND MY WILDEST *DREAMS!*

AIDED BY THE HULK'S INVINCIBLE *POWER*, THE MISSILE BASE WILL SOON BE *MINE!*

AT LAST HULK HAS *FRIENDS*--SOMEONE TO *FIGHT* FOR!

HULK HAS A *MISSION*-- HULK *WILL NOT FAIL!!*

THPKOOM!

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE, YOU FOOLS!

GET OUR HIDDEN *MOUNTAIN-SIDE DOOR* OPEN--*FAST*

--BEFORE HE SMASHES *THRU* IT BY *HIMSELF!*

THE AUTOMATIC DEVICE HAS BEEN *ACTIVATED*--

WE'RE JUST IN *TIME*--

IT'S OPENING *NOW!*

LEADER SAID HE WILL STOP ALL *WAR*--ALL *FIGHTING* --HE WILL BRING *PEACE* TO WHOLE WORLD IF HULK *HELPS* HIM!

NOW WORLD WILL SEE THAT HULK IS *GOOD*-- HULK FIGHTS FOR *PEACE!*

LORD OF LIVING LIGHTNING IS HULK'S *FRIEND!!*

I MUST NOT *FAIL* HIM!

AND, AS THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL *LEGS* ENABLE THE INCREDIBLE ONE TO *LEAP* TOWARDS HIS GOAL--

QUICKLY! ONCE OUR *PRISONER* IS ABOARD, WE'LL *TAKE OFF* AFTER THE HULK!

MAJOR TALBOT MAY PROVE *USEFUL* TO US--AS A *HOSTAGE!*

THE *LORD* OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING NEVER MISSES A *BET!*

YOU'RE MAD!!

YOU CAN'T TAKE OVER A *MISSILE BASE* --WITH ONLY A *HANDFUL* OF MEN!

THINK *AGAIN,* MAJOR--!

I HAVE *MORE* THAN A HANDFUL OF MEN!

I HAVE THE GIGANTIC *HULK* ON MY SIDE-- AS A ONE-MAN *ASSAULT FORCE!*

WITH *HIM* SERVING ME--I CAN ACCOMPLISH *ANYTHING!*

ALL *EQUIPMENT* LOADED! READY FOR *TAKE-OFF!*

THEN WHAT ARE WE *WAITING* FOR?

I HOPE YOU CAN SEE OUT OF THE *WINDOW,* MAJOR--

I THINK I CAN *PROMISE* THAT YOU WILL NOT BE *BORED!*

MEANWHILE, OUR GREEN-TINTED TITAN HAS JUST TAKEN HIS *SECOND* GIANT LEAP TOWARDS THE NEARBY MISSILE BASE--

ATTENTION ALL UNITS! THE *HULK* IS HEADING TOWARDS *SECTOR M!*

HE DESTROYED A *HALF-TRACK* JUST BY *LANDING* ON IT!

OUR SMALL ARMS FIRE IS *USELESS!*

CRACK

WE CAN'T *STOP* HIM!

HAH! HULK FIGURED HIS JUMP JUST *RIGHT!*

MISSILE BASE IS THERE-- *BELOW* ME! I'LL LAND RIGHT IN *CENTER* OF FIELD!

BASE COMMAND! NOTIFY THE GENERAL!!

THE HULK JUST LANDED!

BACK! EVERY-BODY--STAY BACK!

HULK IS HERE TO FIGHT FOR PEACE!

NOBODY CAN STOP ME!

THERE'S NO WAY TO REASON WITH 'IM--

THOOM!

GENERAL!! CONDITION RED, SIR!

IT'S THE HULK! HE'S ATTACKING THE BASE!

WE'RE READY FOR HIM THIS TIME!

HE'S ALREADY MADE IT TO THE CENTER OF THE BASE!

ALL UNITS!! ROSS SPEAKING! CARRY OUT PLAN G-FOR-GAS!

CLICK!

DAD! I CAME TO TELL YOU-- THERE'S NO NEWS OF GLEN TALBOT!

BUT THEN I HEARD--YOUR ORDER! DOES THAT MEAN--?

BETTY! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU-- WITH THE HULK AT LARGE!!

JUST PROMISE-- THAT YOU WON'T GIVE ORDERS-- TO SHOOT BRUCE BANNER!

HE'S NOT BANNER, BLAST IT! HE'S THE HULK--THE MOST DANGEROUS BEING ON EARTH!!

BUT HE CAN'T HELP TURNING INTO THE HULK! IT'S NOT HIS FAULT--!

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY-- BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH BANNER!

ANYWAY, THIS IS NO DEBATING SOCIETY!

SERGEANT! SEE THAT MY DAUGHTER REMAINS HERE-- WHERE SHE'LL BE SAFE!

THUS, SECONDS LATER...

I DON'T GET IT! A DOLL LIKE MISS ROSS COULD HAVE ANY JOE ON THE BASE JUMPIN' THRU HOOPS!

YEAH! BUT SHE DIGS A MONSTER LIKE THE HULK!

OH, BRUCE-- MY DARLING! MUST IT-- ALWAYS BE-- LIKE THIS??

MUST THE HULK FOREVER STAND BETWEEN-- YOU AND ME--?

WILL THINGS NEVER BE THE WAY-- THEY ONCE WERE-- WITH US??

AND, AS THE HEARTSICK GIRL BEMOANS THE WORKINGS OF AN INSCRUTABLE FATE--

HE WON'T STOP!!

HE KEEPS ADVANC-ING!

HE'S GOING RIGHT PAST US--TOWARDS THE MISSILE COMPLEX!

THERE ISN'T A CHANCE OF OUR SMALL ARMS FIRE STOPPING HIM--BUT--

--WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE! WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

IT'S NO USE! HE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL THE SHELLS!

MISSILES AHEAD OF ME! MUST SMASH THEM--LIKE LEADER TOLD ME!

AND THEN AND THERE--BEFORE ANYONE CAN STOP THE RAMPAGING HUMAN BEHEMOTH--

TANKS--RUMBLING UP BEHIND ME!!

BUT--THEY'LL NEVER REACH ME--IN TIME!

RUMMMM

SPLUNG!

HAH! THAT'S FOR THE LEADER--FOR THE LIGHTNING LEGION!

THE FUEL--ON FIRE! ABOUT TO EXPLODE!

BUT--CAN'T HURT--HULK!!

NOTHING CAN HURT ME! NOTHING! NOTHING!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S *FINISHED*, SIR! *NOTHING* COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT *EXPLOSION!*

NOTHING--EXCEPT THE *HULK!*

GET THE *GAS* READY, SOLDIER!

I'M NOT TAKING ANY *CHANCES!*

MOVE, CAPTAIN!

AND, IF WE WERE TO PEER *WITHIN* THE BILLOWING CLOUDS OF SMOKE, WE'D SEE THAT THE GENERAL'S FEARS ARE *WELL-FOUNDED--*

HAVE TO GET *AWAY*-- BEFORE *TANKS* CAN REACH ME--!

WHILE, IN THE SLEEK, SPEEDY *SHIP* ZOOMING ABOVE, *OTHER* EYES FOLLOW THE GRIM TABLEAU WITH EVER-MOUNTING INTEREST--

SEE THE *SMOKE*-- THE *DAMAGE*??

ALL DONE BY MY LOYAL *ALLY*--THE INCREDIBLE *HULK!*

BUT *WHY*?? WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO *ACCOM-PLISH*??

CHAOS! PANIC! NATION-WIDE *FEAR* AMONG THE UNTHINKING *AMERICANS!*

AND, EVEN ONE THING *MORE--!*

ONCE I'VE TAKEN *CONTROL* OF YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED *MISSILE BASE--*

--IT WILL BE A *SIGNAL* FOR EVERY *OTHER* SUBVERSIVE GROUP TO *RISE*--AND TO *STRIKE* AT THE HEART OF THIS NATION!

FOR, AMERICA IS THE GREATEST BASTION OF *FREEDOM* ON EARTH--

AND ONLY BY *CRUSHING* THAT FREEDOM CAN THOSE LIKE *MYSELF* SEIZE THE REINS OF *POWER!*

BUT, EVEN AS THE POWER-MAD TRAITOR SPEAKS--

THERE'S *ONE* WAY TO ESCAPE SMOKE--AND TANKS--

HULK CAN ALWAYS *JUMP* TO SAFETY!

LOOK! THERE HE *GOES*-- *LEAPING* INTO THE AIR!

HE WON'T MAKE IT *THIS* TIME!

OUR *ARTILLERY* HAS HIM *ZEROED IN!*

UNHH

FOOM

THEN, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A *NEW* DANGER SUDDENLY THREATENS--

THE LEADER WAS *RIGHT!*

OUR *TIMING* IS PERFECT!

THEY'LL *NEVER* STOP US NOW!

ZAK!

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

HOSTILE SHIP-- LANDED ON BASE! INVADERS *ATTACKING--!*

THANKS TO THE *HULK*, WE TOOK THEM BY COMPLETE *SURPRISE!*

EVEN IF THEY *DO* MUSTER A FORCE *AGAINST* US-- OUR *LIGHTNING RAYS* WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM!

TAKE YOUR POSITIONS AS *PLANNED!*

SECURE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES AND STAND BY FOR FURTHER *ORDERS!*

I CAN'T BEAR THE *SUSPENSE* ANY LONGER! HE'S *HERE--I KNOW* IT!

YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE ME *TO* HIM! I KNOW I CAN *HELP!* I *MUST* SEE THE *HULK!*

GET HER BACK *IN* THERE, SAM!

NO, MISS ROSS! GET *INSIDE!* QUICK!

WE'RE UNDER *ATTACK!*

IT--IT'S *TOO LATE!*

THEY'VE REACHED US *ALREADY!*

OHHH--!

BUT, IN CASE YOU FEEL THERE HASN'T BEEN ENOUGH *ACTION* FOR YOU--LET'S RETURN TO OUR HOUNDED *HERO*--

GUNS FROM *TANK*--SHOT ME OUT OF SKY!

GUNS *STILL* SHOOTING AT HULK!

BUT GUNS WILL NEVER SHOOT HULK *AGAIN!*

SKRAFF

HE TOOK THE *BAIT!*

NOW WE *HAVE* HIM WHERE WE *WANT* HIM!

BELT 'IM WITH THOSE *GAS BOMBS --NOW!*

THAT'S *IT!* MAKE EVERY ONE *COUNT!*

HE'S TOO *CLOSE!*

WE *CAN'T MISS!*

THIS'LL STOP 'IM *COLD!*

RIGHT ON *TARGET!* WE *GOT* 'IM! HE'S *ALREADY* TAKEN A WHIFF!

GAS!

THOK!

HAVE TO-- *LEAP UP* AGAIN--

ESCAPE-- WHILE THERE'S STILL-- *TIME*--!

BUT, IN ORDER TO MUSTER ENOUGH *STRENGTH* FOR HIS LEAP--

--THE HULK MUST ANOTHER *DEEP BREATH*--

ARRHHH!

--HIS *UNDOING!*

IT'S *OVER!*

WE'VE *GOT* 'IM!

WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO *LIFT* HIM! NO SENSE EVEN *TRYING!*

WE'LL HAVE TO REQUISITION A *DERRICK* FROM THE QUARTER-MASTER!

EEEEEE

LISTEN! THE *RED ALERT* SIREN!

IT MEANS *DROP EVERY-THING!*

DON'T WASTE A *SECOND!* NO TELLING *WHEN* HE'LL REVIVE!

WE'RE *UNDER ATTACK!*

WHAT *BLUNDERHEAD* SOUNDED THE ALARM??!

WE'VE ALREADY *STOPPED* THE HULK! OUR OBJECTIVE IS *SECURED!*

IT'S *NOT* THE *HULK,* GENERAL! IT'S EVEN *WORSE!*

WE'VE BEEN *INVADED*-- BY AN *UNKNOWN* FOE!

THERE'S AN URGENT *CALL* FOR YOU, SIR!

ON THE ADJUTANT'S *PHONE!*

THIS IS *ROSS!* WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOING *ON* THERE??!

WHAT'S ALL THIS BALDERDASH ABOUT AN *INVASION!*

WHAT??

WHO IN THUNDER AM I *TALKING* TO??!

I CHOOSE TO CALL MYSELF THE *LORD OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING!*

AND *YOU* MAY REFER TO ME AS YOUR NEW *COMMANDING OFFICER!*

OH, BY THE WAY, GENERAL-- MY COMPLI-MENTS ON YOUR *CIGARS!*

A PITY *YOU'RE* NOT HERE TO ENJOY THEM WITH ME!

THE FORCES OF THE *LIVING LIGHTNING*--HERE ON *MY* BASE!!

THEIR *LEADER*-- ENSCONCED IN *MY OFFICE!* IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*

NO, SIR! IT'S A *FACT!* THEY STRUCK WHILE OUR MEN WERE BATTLING THE *HULK!*

THEY'RE IN *COMPLETE COMMAND* OF THE BASE!

AND THEY'VE CUT OFF ALL *RADIO CONTACT* WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

IT *CAN'T* BE! IT'S *MAD*-- *INSANE!!*

SPLAK!

I'M GOING TO MY *OFFICE*-- TO *FACE* HIM!

IF I'M NOT BACK IN TEN MINUTES-- *TAKE CHARGE!*

YOUR *ORDERS* ARE THE SAME AS *MINE,* COLONEL--!

NO SURRENDER-- NOT WHILE *ONE FIGHTING MAN* REMAINS ALIVE!

YOU!
MY DAUGHTER! I LEFT HER IN HERE!
WHERE IS SHE?
RELAX, GENERAL! YOU'LL FIND OUT--WHEN I'M READY!
THEN IT'S TRUE!!
YOU HAVE TAKEN OVER THE BASE!
FIRST--I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE--

THEY TOOK HER, SIR!
AND--I COULDN'T STOP THEM!
TALBOT!! THAT'S WHY WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU!
THEY'VE MADE YOU A PRISONER, TOO!
BUT HOW, MAN?? HOW DID THEY DO IT??
IT WAS THE HULK! HE HELPED THEM!
I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT ROTTEN TRAITOR ALL ALONG!

WHERE IS THE HULK? WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
IF YOU'LL ACCOMPANY ME, GENERAL--I'LL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU!

AFTER ALL, IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR YOU--
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO SURRENDER THIS BASE TO ME IN A NATION-WIDE RADIO BROADCAST!
NEVER! NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO!
DON'T BE TOO SURE, GENERAL!
FIRST SEE THE SURPRISE I'VE PREPARED FOR YOU....!
SURPRISE??

YES! YOU MIGHT CALL IT THAT!
MY DAUGHTER!! IMPRISONED--WITH THE HULK!
AND THE MONSTER IS ABOUT TO REVIVE!

AND NOW, GENERAL, I AM WAITING--FOR YOUR ANSWER!!

NEXT:
WHEN THE MONSTER WAKES!

MARVEL™
COMICS
GROUP

12¢
IND.

99
JAN

MCG

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INCREDIBLE HULK™

AND

THE SUB-MARINER™

"WHEN THE MONSTER WAKES!"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

"WHEN THE MONSTER WAKES!"

AIDED BY THE *HULK*, THE EVIL *LORD OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING* HAS CAPTURED GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS' *MISSILE BASE!* THEN, IN ORDER TO HALT THE GENERAL'S RESISTANCE, HIS *DAUGHTER* IS PLACED IN THE SAME CELL AS... THE INCREDIBLE *HULK...!*

GENERAL'S *DAUGHTER!* ...IN HERE WITH *ME!* BUT--- *WHY?*

PRODUCED BY STAN (THE MAN) LEE and MARIE (THE SHE) SEVERIN

INKED BY JOHN TARTAGLIONE

LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN

READ THIS ONE SLOWLY, TIGER! IT'S TOO GOOD TO RUSH...

NO MATTER *HOW* TERRIFYING HE LOOKS... I MUSTN'T ALLOW MY *FEAR* TO SHOW--!

I MUST REMEMBER...HE'S REALLY *BRUCE BANNER*... THE MAN I *LOVE!*

HE WOULD *NEVER* HARM ME..*NEVER!*

NO MATTER *HOW* FRIGHTENED I AM...

I MUST *SHOW* HIM...I *TRUST* HIM...!

WHILE *OUTSIDE* THE LOCKED CHAMBER...

NOW, GENERAL...DO YOU SEE *WHY* YOU MUST OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND?

GET HER *OUT* OF THERE! I'LL OBEY *NOTHING* WHILE SHE'S *TRAPPED* INSIDE!

DO NOT ENTE

I SAID *OPEN THAT DOOR,* BLAST YOU!!

NO! NOT UNTIL YOU AGREE TO *SURRENDER* THE BASE TO ME... VIA A *NATION-WIDE BROADCAST!*

SAY! WHAT'S *HAPPENING* IN THERE?

IT'S THE *HULK!* HE'S *AWAKE!*

WHAT? STAND *ASIDE,* ALL OF YOU!

ONLY *I* CAN CONTROL THE GREEN-SKINNED *MONSTER!*

I *WARN* YOU...SET MY DAUGHTER *FREE*...

OR I'LL TRACK YOU DOWN IF IT TAKES *FOREVER!*

2.

WHY DO YOU CRY? ...HULK WILL NOT HARM YOU!

I WAS RIGHT! YOU DO RECOGNIZE ME...YOU DO REMEMBER!!

THEY'RE TALKING TOGETHER.. LIKE THEY'RE FRIENDS!!

LET ME AT HIM!

I'LL SHOW ROSS WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DARE TO DEFY ME!

LISTEN, HULK! THIS IS THE LEADER..!

THE GIRL IS YOUR ENEMY!..

JUST AS HER FATHER...THE WAR-MONGERING GENERAL ROSS...IS ALSO YOUR ENEMY!

NO! IT ISN'T SO!!

I AM YOUR ONLY FRIEND! YOU MUST TRUST ONLY ME!

THE GIRL INTENDS TO BETRAY YOU...

JUST AS EVERYONE HAS BETRAYED YOU... EXCEPT FOR ME!

HULK...IT'S ALL LIES!

HE'S THE ONE WHO IS OUR ENEMY!

GIRL SAYS YOU ARE BAD ONE!!

THE HULK BELIEVES WHAT GIRL TELLS HIM!

GUARDS!! HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!!

USE YOUR BLASTERS!! ..DESTROY HIM!

HE'S ALREADY SERVED HIS PURPOSE!!

NO!! YOU MUSTN'T!! YOU CAN'T KILL HIM--- NO!

NOTHING CAN KILL THE HULK!

OH NO?

OUR LIGHTNING-BLASTERS CAN!

ARHHHH!!!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE--HE'S STILL STANDING!

HE'S COMING TOWARDS US!!

NO! WAIT... LOOK!!

THE LIGHTNING-BLAST IS AFFECTING HIM---!

HE'S FALLING-- BEGINNING TO CRUMBLE!!

THE IMPACT MUST HAVE DRAINED AWAY HIS STRENGTH!

BUT... STILL HE LIVES!!

GIVE HIM ANOTHER BLAST... AND ANOTHER... UNTIL HE... NO! STOP!!

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO HIM!

HE'S STARTING TO-- CHANGE!!

HE'S GROWING SMALLER... WEAKER--!

HIS SKIN COLOR IS BECOMING NORMAL--!

I--I'M BRUCE BANNER-- ONCE MORE!!

MEANWHILE, IN THE ROOM WHERE MAJOR TALBOT IS BEING HELD PRISONER...

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE??

CAN THE HULK HAVE TURNED AGAINST THE LIGHTNING LORD?

NOW'S MY CHANCE... WHILE HIS ATTENTION IS DISTRACTED!

UNNHHHH!

SPLAM!

I'M FREE!

NOW, IF ONLY IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

SECONDS LATER, THE INDOMITABLE MAJOR SURVEYS THE CONDITION OF THE BESIEGED MISSILE BASE, AND THEN...

MY FIRST JOB IS TO REACH THE RADIO TRANSMITTER AND CONTACT THE PENTAGON..!

THEN, HAVING DONE THAT...

HELP WILL SOON BE ON THE WAY!

BUT I DON'T INTEND TO WAIT FOR IT!

NOT WHILE BETTY IS STILL IN DANGER!

AND, SPEAKING OF THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER...

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HULK?

WHERE'S THE GIRL?

HEY! GIVE US A HAND!

THE GENERAL'S LIKE A TIGER...! CAN HARDLY HOLD HIM!

WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?

WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE SAY SOMETHING?

YOU... SHOULD HAVE SEEN... WHAT WE JUST SAW..!!

SO!! INSTEAD OF DESTROYING THE HULK---MY LIGHTNING-BLASTER MERELY CHANGED HIM BACK TO HIS NORMAL FORM!

BUT NOW---A SECOND BLAST WILL RID ME OF HIM FOREVER!

BETTY!! SHE'S FAINTED!!

STAY BACK!! LOOK OUT!!

ANYONE WHO CAN CHANGE HIMSELF... LIKE THAT... JUST CAN'T BE... HUMAN!

WHETHER HUMAN OR NOT... IT NO LONGER MATTERS!

WE MUST SHOW HOW THE LEGIONS OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING DESTROY THEIR ENEMIES!!

LEADER! COME QUICK! THE MAJOR ESCAPED!

WHAT?!! WHO'S THE BLUNDERING FOOL RESPONSIBLE?? I'LL HAVE HIS HIDE FOR THIS!!

WE'VE NO TIME FOR ANYTHING.. EXCEPT FLIGHT!

HAH!! NOW IT'S OUR TURN!!

TALBOT MANAGED TO ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT AGAIN!!

DO NOT ENTER

NO NEED TO PANIC!! WE STILL HAVE THE GENERAL... AND HIS DAUGHTER... TO USE AS HOSTAGES!

WE'LL TAKE THEM WITH US WHEN WE MAKE OUR ESCAPE!

YOU HEARD THE LEADER! START MOVING!

IT'S ONLY A TEMPORARY SETBACK!

WE'RE TOO STRONG TO BE STOPPED NOW!

YOU WOULDN'T WANNA BET ON THAT, WOULD YOU?

THE MAJOR! HE CAPTURED ONE OF OUR BLASTERS!!

ZZAK

HOLD IT, TALBOT!
DON'T SHOOT! IT'S US!
GENERAL ROSS!
WHERE'S BETTY? IS SHE.. ALL RIGHT?
YES! SHE'S JUST BEHIND ME... WITH BANNER!
NOW'S MY CHANCE... TO MAKE IT TO THE SHIP!

HE CHANGED BACK TO BANNER AGAIN ?!!
THEN BETTY IS SAFE... FOR NOW!
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SAFE!
THE LEADER!! HE GOT AWAY FROM US!
THE HULK WOULD NEVER HARM HER!
LISTEN! ... ROTOR ENGINES!
OUR REINFORCE-MENTS HAVE ARRIVED!

WE'RE TRAPPED!
THE LIGHTNING LORD HAS FAILED US!
THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN!
OUR SMALL ARMS FIRE CAN'T REACH THE SHIPS!
THE RANGE IS TOO GREAT!

HOLD YOUR FIRE!
FOLLOW ME!
WE CAN STILL ESCAPE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS... TRAPPED ON THE BASE ?
IT'S THEIR HARD LUCK!
YOUR LEADER'S SAFETY COMES FIRST!
HANGER A7

WHAT?!! THEY MADE IT TO THEIR SHIP
THEY BLASTED OFF BEFORE YOU COULD STOP THEM?!!
SATISFIED, BANNER?
YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE!
NO! YOU CAN'T BLAME BRUCE... FOR THE HULK'S DEEDS!

BUT, NO MATTER *WHOSE* FAULT IT MAY BE...

...THE *LIGHTNING LORD*...AND A PICKED CREW OF FOLLOWERS ...MAKES GOOD HIS *ESCAPE*..!

I SEEM TO REMEMBER... THE LIGHTNING LEGIONS HAD *MISSILES* READY FOR LAUNCHING!

THEIR LEADER'S A *MADMAN!* WE'VE GOT TO *REACH* THEM...BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE!*

THERE'S *NO WAY* TO STOP THEM NOW... AND BANNER *KNOWS* IT!

FOR ALL WE KNOW, *HE'S* THE ONE WHO *PLANNED* THE WHOLE THING!

I'M CALLING YOU A *TRAITOR*, MISTER!

WE CAN SETTLE THAT *LATER!*..

...AFTER WE KNOCK OUT THOSE *MISSILES!*

MISSILES WHICH *BANNER* PROBABLY DESIGNED FOR THEM!

I'LL MAKE YOU *EAT* THOSE WORDS, TALBOT!

THE *HULK* CAN STILL *WIPE OUT* THE LEGIONS OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING!

COME *OFF* IT, BANNER! DO YOU THINK WE'D EVER *TRUST* THE HULK AGAIN?!

YOU'VE NO OTHER *CHOICE*, MAJOR!

HE'S *RIGHT*, TALBOT!

BUT...WE CAN'T *CONTROL* THE HULK! WHAT IF HE..?

THIS ISN'T A *DEBATING CONTEST*, MAJOR! *I'M* STILL IN COMMAND HERE!

NOW COME WITH *ME*... *BOTH* OF YOU..!

SECONDS LATER...

RECOGNIZE THAT *MACHINE*, BANNER?

IT'S...MY OLD *GAMMA RAY* DEVICE...!

YOU *REBUILT* IT...FROM MY EARLY *PLANS!*

STAY BACK! I'LL ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY!

YES, *SIR*, GENERAL!

IT'S FULLY *OPERATIONAL!*

JUST WHAT I *NEED!*

IF IT *WORKS*...IT'LL CHANGE ME BACK TO THE *HULK*... *INSTANTLY!*

IT *MUST* WORK! ONLY THE *HULK* CAN REACH THOSE *MISSILES* IN TIME!

BUT...HOW DO WE KNOW...THE HULK WON'T ATTACK *US?*

YOU CAN ALWAYS SAY "I *TOLD* YOU SO!"

NOW *STAND BACK*, MAJOR!

GENERAL...I WON'T FORGET..THAT YOU *TRUSTED* ME...!

I'M NOT LOOK-ING FOR *GRATITUDE*, MISTER!!

JUST *SMASH THOSE MISSILES!*

THEN THROW THE *SWITCH..!*

ARHHH!

IT *WORKED!*

HE'S MADE THE *CHANGE* AGAIN!

LIGHTNING LORD *LIED* TO HULK..!!

...BUT HE'LL NEVER LIE TO *ANYONE AGAIN!*

MEANWHILE...

NOW HEAR THIS..!

ABANDON BASE!

BUT FIRST... *FOLLOW PLAN M!*

OUR FINAL ACT OF *DEFIANCE* WILL BE TO WIPE *ROSS* AND HIS *ARMY BASE* OFF THE FACE OF THE *EARTH!*

PREPARE TO LAUNCH ALL MISSILES!

LISTEN! WHAT WAS *THAT?*

SOMETHING AT THE IRON DOOR...

BATTERING IT!!

THONG!

IT'S...THE HULK!

BLAST HIM... QUICK!!

IT'S NO USE!!

HE CAN'T BE STOPPED BY THE PORTABLE LIGHTNING GUNS!!

USE THE HIGH-INTENSITY FIELD-PIECE...HURRY!!

TOO LATE!! HE'S STARTING TO SMASH IT!!

SURROUND HIM!! HE CAN'T FIGHT EVERYONE OFF AT ONCE!!

BLOOM!

LEADER WANTS ME TO KEEP SMASHING YOU...

SO HE CAN ESCAPE!!

THOOM!

BUT HULK WILL NOT BE FOOLED AGAIN...!!

STOP HIM! STOP HIM!

IF HE HITS THE ATOMIC PILE--!!

NOTHING STOPS THE HULK!

NO! NO!

SECONDS LATER, THE AIR FORCE JETS, WHICH FINALLY REACH THE SITE, ARE STARTLED TO SEE---

THE HULK BEAT US TO IT---!

HE DESTROYED THEIR BASE!

LET'S HEAD BACK!

NOTHING THAT LIVES COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT BLAST!

...NOTHING!!

THE END?

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SUB-MARINER™

AND THE INCREDIBLE

HULK™

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 100 FEB

MCG

AN EPIC-LENGTH 22-PAGE BATTLE!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK™ and Prince Namor, THE SUB-MARINER!™

"LET THERE BE BATTLE!"

A DOUBLE-LENGTH SPECTACULAR TO STAGGER YOUR SENSES! BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE
MARIE (THE SHE) SEVERIN
and DANDY DAN ADKINS

LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

HIDDEN IN A REMOTE, UNDER-SEA OUTPOST, THE EMBITTERED ***SUB-MARINER*** PROBES THE SURFACE WORLD THROUGH A LONG-RANGE ***COMPUTO-VIEWER*** UNTIL, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, HE SEES---

THE ***HULK!*** PLUNGING TO HIS DEATH ATOP A SOUTH-WESTERN ***PEAK!***

BUT, IF I COULD ***SAVE*** HIM---

---WHAT AN INVINCIBLE ***ALLY*** HE WOULD BE!

MY OWN SUBJECTS HAVE BRANDED ME A TRAITOR!

THERE ARE NONE TO WHOM I MAY TURN!

I, NAMOR THE FIRST, PRINCE OF ATLANTIS, AM FRIENDLESS AND FORSAKEN!

BUT, I SHALL BE SO NO LONGER!

THAK

IN ALL THE VAST UNDERSEA REALM, NONE ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN I!

AND, UPON THE ACCURSED SURFACE WORLD, THE GREEN-SKINNED HULK IS MIGHTIEST OF ALL!

TOGETHER, WE WILL BE INVINCIBLE!

THEN, AFTER HOURS OF TIRELESS SWIMMING AT TWICE THE SPEED OF THE FASTEST TORPEDO...

AT LAST... THE SOUTH-EAST TIP OF THE UNITED STATES!

BUT, WHAT IS THIS..?

SURFACEMEN... UPON A BOAT... DARING TO FIRE AT ME!

KRAK!

IF IT BE NEPTUNE'S WILL THAT I SO SOON BE PLUNGED INTO BATTLE--

THEN BATTLE IT SHALL BE!

OUR SHELL BOUNCED OFF HIM!

CALL THE MASTER... QUICK!

ONLY HE CAN TELL US WHAT TO DO!

WAIT! HE'S STARTING TO CONTACT US NOW--!

NO NEED TO CALL ME!

I KNOW WHAT IS TRANSPIRING!

AND, MILES AWAY, WITHIN A HIDDEN SANCTUM...

THEY DON'T SUSPECT THAT I CAN SEE THEIR EVERY MOVE!

BUT WHO CAN IT BE THAT IS ATTACKING THEM?

MY PLAN WAS FOOL-PROOF!

BY CONSTRUCTING PUPPETS OF THE TWO-MAN CREW OF THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE HYDRAFOIL SHIP, I COULD CONTROL THEIR EVERY MOVEMENT!

I ORDERED THEM TO BRING THE PRICELESS EXPERIMENTAL CRAFT TO ME---

AND TO SHOOT ANY WHO TRIED TO INTERFERE!

BUT NOW... SOMETHING PURSUES THEM... FASTER THAN ANY CRAFT AFLOAT!

WE CAN'T ESCAPE HIM! HE'S GAINING ON US! HE'S---

LOOK OUT!

ZAK

NONE MAY ATTACK THE REGAL PERSON OF NAMOR THE FIRST!

THE SUB-MARINER! HE WHO HAS DEFEATED THE PUPPET MASTER IN THE PAST!

HE STILL LIVES!

BUT, HE WILL LIVE NO LONGER!

SEE THEM CLINGING HELPLESSLY TO THE CRIPPLED CRAFT!

THERE THEY SHALL REMAIN TILL AID CAN REACH THEM!

SO, LET THE WORD ISSUE FORTH...

NAMOR IS RETURNED...LET THE SURFACE WORLD TREMBLE!

AND ONE THERE IS WHO DOES TREMBLE..IN EVIL ANTICIPATION...

THE HYDRAFOIL NO LONGER INTERESTS ME...

FOR I HAVE FOUND A BIGGER PRIZE!

EACH TIME I TRIED TO CONTROL THE SUB-MARINER...

I MET WITH BLEAK DEFEAT!

SKOP

BUT THIS TIME I WON'T TRY TO CONTROL NAMOR...

I'LL FIND A CAT'S PAW WHO...WAIT!

THE NEWS-PAPER!

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING!

OF COURSE!! THE HULK! HE'S THE ONE I NEED!

ONLY HE HAS THE STRENGTH TO CRUSH THE SUB-MARINER!

THE WORLD PRESS

HULK BURIED UNDER LANDSLIDE

WORLD WONDERS "IS HULK DEAD?"

THE HULK WILL GET MY REVENGE FOR ME---

---WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHOM HE SERVES!

NO MERE LAND-SLIDE COULD KILL THE GREEN-SKINNED BRUTE!

ALL I NEED DO IS CREATE A PUPPET LIKENESS...

--WHICH IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR A GENIUS LIKE ME!

THEN, A SPECIAL TREATMENT TO ACTIVATE MY RADIO-ACTIVE CLAY...

AND THE JOB IS DONE!

NOW, MY WILL IS HIS WILL!

MY EVERY WISH IS HIS ABSOLUTE COMMAND!

THE FIRST THING I MUST DO IS REVIVE HIM...

AND HAVE HIM DIG HIMSELF FREE!

THEN, HIS MISSION WILL BE... KILL THE SUB-MARINER!

SECONDS LATER, SOMEWHERE IN THE GREAT SOUTHWEST...

AWAKEN, HULK! THE PUPPET MASTER COMMANDS!

YOU MUST OBEY! FOR I HOLD THE GLOWING PUPPET!

I... MUST-- OBEY!

THE HULK MUST GET FREE!

THE PUPPET MASTER COMMANDS!

THOK!

THOK!
PKOW!
KRAK!
BTAM!
HE IS EVEN *STRONGER* THAN I DARED TO *HOPE!*
THE UNSUSPECTING *NAMOR* WILL BE LIKE A SACRIFICIAL *LAMB* TO HIM!
AND, THOUGH THE *VICTORY* IS HIS...THE *TRIUMPH* SHALL BE... *MINE!*
WHILE, AT THE BASE OF THE FATEFUL PEAK, WE SEE...
WE'VE *GOT* TO FIND THE BODY! WE MUST BE *CERTAIN* HE'S DEAD!
BRING UP THE *BLASTING CREW!*
NO, GENERAL, *DON'T!* YOU *CAN'T..!*
FOR ALL WE KNOW HE'S STILL *ALIVE...*
BUT, IF HE *IS...* THE *EXPLOSIONS* WILL *FINISH* HIM!
NO MATTER *WHAT* HE'S DONE...HE'S A *HUMAN BEING...* HE'S MY *FRIEND...* HE'S SAVED MY *LIFE!*
YOU CAN'T JUST *KILL* HIM!
DO YOU THINK I *WANT* TO DO IT??
I'VE GOT NO *CHOICE*, BOY!
WE *CAN'T* LEAVE UNTIL WE *FIND* HIM...ONE WAY OR *ANOTHER!*
HE'S TOO *DANGEROUS* TO BE, UNACCOUNTED-FOR!
I KNOW I'M JUST A *KID...* A *NOBODY* FROM NOWHERES-VILLE!
BUT, I CAN'T LET IT *END* LIKE THIS! HE'S..THE GREATEST GUY...IN THE WHOLE *WORLD!*
TAKE THE BOY *AWAY*, MAJOR TALBOT..!
OUR *OWN* FEELINGS DON'T MATTER! WE HAVE.. A *JOB* TO DO..!!
BUT THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE...
IT'S *HIM!*
HE'S *FREE!*

JONES... WAIT!
COME BACK!
IT ISN'T SAFE!
HE WOULDN'T HURT ME!
...NOT THE HULK!
ALL WHO LIVE ARE YOUR DEADLY ENEMIES!
YOU MUST TRUST NONE... LISTEN TO NO ONE!
EXCEPT THE VOICE OF... THE PUPPET MASTER!
I'LL TRUST NOBODY!
HULK... THE GENERAL--AND MAJOR TALBOT...THEY WANNA HELP YOU!
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE...TO START A NEW LIFE!
WHY-- DON'T YOU ANSWER ME??
HULK LISTENS TO NO ONE!
UNHHHH!
THAP
EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!
NOW, LEAP TO SAFETY---BEFORE THEY CAN STOP YOU!
NOBODY STOPS THE HULK!
GET A MEDIC!!
HE HURT THE BOY!
UHHH...
TALBOT WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM! HE IS A MENACE!
A BRAINLESS, BESTIAL MONSTER... WHO STRIKES FOR NO CAUSE!
BUT I'LL GET YOU, HULK! IF IT TAKES FOREVER..
I'LL GET YOU!
6.

PERFECT!

NOW, ALL I NEED DO IS LEAD THE HULK TO WHERE MY VICTIM STANDS!

AND, WITH THOSE GIGANTIC LEAPS OF HIS...

HE'LL REACH THE SPOT IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

THEN, TRUE TO THE PUPPET MASTER'S PERSPICACIOUS PREDICTION...

WHAT A FANTASTIC TURN OF FATE!

IT IS HE WHOM I SEEK!

SPLUNG!

YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR GOAL!

REMEMBER---YOU HAVE BUT ONE ORDER---ONE INVIOLATE COMMAND---

DESTROY THE SUB-MARINER!

I WILL REMEMBER!

HEAR ME, HULK!

I HAVE COME TO THE SURFACE WORLD TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER!

SINCE WE ARE BOTH POWERFUL BEYOND DESCRIPTION---AND BOTH OUTCASTS...I PROPOSE WE JOIN FORCES..!

HIS EYES! AN EXPRESSION OF NAKED, MANIACAL HATRED...!

THE HULK JOINS FORCES WITH NO ONE!

YOU ARE HULK'S ENEMY!

ZOK!

=UHHHH!=

WITLESS CLOD! I COME TO YOU IN FRIENDSHIP...

AND YOU ATTACK... FOR NO CAUSE!

THA-A-A-A

ON YOUR *FEET*... SO HULK CAN *FINISH* YOU--- *FAST!*

HE WAS *RIGHT!* HERE UPON THE *LAND*, THE ADVANTAGE IS *HIS!*

THUS, I MUST *CHANGE* THE ARENA WHEREIN WE FIGHT---

I MUST LURE HIM INTO *FOLLOWING* ME---INTO THE NEARBY *SEA!*

HOW DOES IT *FEEL*, BESTIAL ONE---?

YOU HAVE STRUCK YOUR MOST *POTENT* BLOWS---

AND *STILL* I SURVIVE---TO *DEFY* YOU!

NAMOR IS TRYING TO *GOAD* HIM--- TO MAKE HIM LOSE HIS *TEMPER!*

I WON'T *ALLOW* IT! HE MUST STRIKE *NOW!*

DON'T *TALK* TO HIM! DON'T *LISTEN* TO HIM!

CAN'T YOU *SEE??* HE'S TRYING TO *TRICK* YOU?

DON'T GIVE HIM ANOTHER *CHANCE!*

ATTACK HIM *NOW!* CRUSH THE SUB-MARINER AT *ONCE!*

THERE'S NO *STOPPING* HIM--- NO *REASONING* WITH HIM!

HAVE YOU SO SOON *FORGOTTEN*, HULK?

---HOW THE SUB-MARINER CAN *FLY??*

=YUUFFF!=

YOUR WINGED FEET MEAN *NOTHING!!*

YOU CAN'T *ESCAPE* ME!

HE'S *RIGHT!* WHEREVER I CAN *FLY*...HE CAN *LEAP!*

---WHICH IS THE WAY I'LL *LURE* HIM TO THE BECKONING *SEA!*

NOW... WHEN WE FALL TO EARTH...

THE *HULK* CAN TAKE THE CRASH BETTER THAN *YOU!*

FOR 'TIS NO HELP-LESS *HUMAN* VICTIM YOU ATTACK!

NOT EVEN THE *HULK'S* HAND GRIP CAN LONG HOLD THE TRUE HEIR OF *FATHER NEPTUNE!*

THOP!

PERHAPS... BUT YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO *FIND OUT!*

HIS *ARM!! GRAB IT... QUICKLY!*

WE MUST *NOT* FAIL!

HAH! WHILE NAMOR *TALKS*... THE HULK *ACTS!!*

BUT YOU ARE *TOO LATE!*

THE *PAUSE* WAS ALL I NEEDED TO CHECK MY PLUNGE...

AND NOW THE *TREES* HAVE BROKEN OUR FALL!

SNAK!

YOU LUMBERING GREEN-SKINNED *FOOL!* HE WAS TOO *SWIFT* FOR YOU!

DON'T TRY TO *OUT-MANEUVER* HIM... YOU HAVEN'T THE *SKILL*... OR THE *BRAINS!*

YOUR ONLY WEAPON IS *FORCE*... MERCILESS, UNYIELDING *BRUTE FORCE!!*

YOU MUST *USE* IT!

THEN, GOADED BY THE *PUPPET MASTER'S* SCATHING WORDS...

HE *SEIZED* ME... IN A GRIP OF *STEEL!*

THAT'S IT! *THAT'S IT!* NOW... *DESTROY* HIM!!

NO MATTER *HOW* POWERFUL HE IS... HE CAN STILL BE *HURT*... HE CAN STILL BE *SLAIN!!*

AT *LAST* I PICKED THE PERFECT ONE TO *DO* IT!!

WAIT! AM I *SEEING* THINGS??

HE'S... HURLING HIM *AWAY*... FAR OUT TO *SEA!!*

YOU *FOOL!!* YOU BRAINLESS, BUMBLING, MORONIC *FOOL!!*

YOU DID THE *ONE* THING... THE *ONE* THING.. THAT MIGHT *SAVE* HIM!

GO *AFTER* HIM, YOU GREEN-SKINNED *GARGOYLE!!*

HE MUSTN'T ESCAPE US *NOW!!*

IF ONLY... I COULD *STOP*... VOICES... IN MY *HEAD..!!*

WHILE, SOARING THROUGH THE AIR AT NEAR-MISSILE SPEED...

I'VE GOT TO *SLOW* MYSELF DOWN..!

MAKE MY *ANKLE WINGS*... ACT AS *BRAKES..!*

MUSTN'T OVERSHOOT THE *SEA!!* GOING TOO *FAST* TO LAND... ON HARD *GROUND!*

I'M...ALMOST AT...THE *COAST!!*

MUST EXERT...STILL MORE *FORCE!!* MY *LIFE* DEPENDS ON IT!

HAVE TO CREATE... INCREASED *WIND RESISTANCE*...ONLY *SECONDS* LEFT..!

WHILE, MANY MILES TO THE EAST...

THE ONLY WAY...TO LOSE *VOICE* IN MY HEAD...

--IS TO GO *AFTER* SUB-MARINER!!

THOOM!

BUT, BEFORE THE INCREDIBLE HULK'S SELF-PROPELLED *LEAP* CAN BRING HIM TO HIS QUARRY...

ZPZT!

SPLOOSH!

I *DID* IT!

I BROUGHT MYSELF DOWN...IN THE *SEA!*

SOON MY *STRENGTH* WILL REACH FULL PEAK...

AND *THEN..!!*

BUT, BEFORE WE RESUME THE AGONIZIN' *ACTION*, LET'S VISIT A HUGE SOUTHWESTERN *MISSILE BASE*...

BETTY! THE DOCTOR SAID YOU SHOULD BE IN *BED!*

I HEARD THAT SOMEONE WAS *INJURED*...

YOU'VE BEEN UNDER TOO GREAT A *STRAIN!*

I THOUGHT... IT MIGHT BE... *BRUCE!!*

OH *NO!!* IT'S *RICK!*

THE *HULK* DID IT TO HIM, DEAR!

BUT...HE WAS THE HULK'S ONLY *FRIEND!* IF HE'D TURN AGAINST *RICK*...THEN... *NO ONE* IS SAFE!

IT MEANS... THE HULK IS... BEYOND ANY *HELP!!*

THEN...I'VE *LOST* BRUCE BANNER!!

LOST HIM... *FOREVER!*

IT'S WHAT I ALWAYS THOUGHT I *WANTED*... A CLEAR FIELD WITH BETTY...FOR *MYSELF!*

BUT, NOT LIKE *THIS!* NOT IF IT CAUSES HER...SUCH *HEARTBREAK*... SUCH *GRIEF!*

EMERGENCY WA

ALERT

I WANT HER LOVE... BECAUSE I'M THE *BETTER* MAN!! NOT BECAUSE SHE *CAN'T* HAVE BANNER!

THE HULK HAS ALWAYS *THWARTED* ME... HAS COME BETWEEN *BETTY* AND ME!

IF ONLY I COULD *DESTROY* HIM..IF ONLY I COULD MAKE HER REALIZE HE *MUST* BE CRUSHED..IF *ANY* OF US ARE TO FIND HAPPINESS..!!

BUT *HOW??* *HOW??* HOW CAN *ANYTHING* KILL THE *HULK??*

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, A RAGING *SUB-MARINER* PONDERS THE SAME FATE-FUL QUESTION--!

BY NEPTUNE'S SACRED *TRIDENT*...THE HULK MUST *DIE!!*

AND DIE HE *SHALL*...

BY THE ROYAL HAND OF *NAMOR*, PRINCE OF THE BLOOD!

SO SWEARS NAMOR, THE TRUE *SUB-MARINER!*

THE *WATER* TO ME IS *LIFE!!*

IT HAS RESTORED MY SUPREME AMPHIBIOUS *STRENGTH..!*

ONCE *AGAIN* AM I *MONARCH* OF ALL I SURVEY!

SO LONG AS THE *SEA* IS EVER NEAR, NOT EVEN THE POWER OF THE *HULK* CAN STOP ME *NOW!*

AND SO, THE *FINAL* PHASE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST UNFORGETTABLE *BATTLES* IS ABOUT TO *BEGIN*...

I *SEE* HIM!!

THOUGH MY *STRENGTH* IS RESTORED... HE *STILL* DARES PURSUE ME!

SUB-MARINER IS IN THE AIR *ABOVE* ME!

ONE MORE *LEAP*... AND I'LL *HAVE* HIM AGAIN!

MORCHA

HU-BOOM!

BUT, *BEFORE* THE GREEN-SKINNED RAMPAGER CAN AGAIN TAKE TO THE AIR...

HE'S DIVING *DOWN*...

ATTACKING ME!!

IMPERIUS REX!!

NO! IT'S NOT ANOTHER HURRICANE!! IT'S EVEN WORSE..!!

IT'S THE HULK... BATTLING THE SUB-MARINER!!

POOLSIDE ATTENDANT

IF SOMEONE DOESN'T STOP 'EM, THEY'LL TEAR THE WHOLE CITY APART!!

BUT WHO...OR WHAT CAN STOP THE TWO STRONGEST LIVING MORTALS ON EARTH..???

HERE, IN THE WATER--IT IS NAMOR WHO ATTACKS!!

THOUGH HIS MASSIVE LUNGS CAN REMAIN SUBMERGED FAR LONGER THAN OTHER HUMANS...

THE POWER NOW IS MINE!!

BUT, IT IS NOT THE HULK ALONE WHOM NAMOR BATTLES ...

GET OUT! OUT, YOU FOOL!!

YOU DARE NOT REMAIN SUBMERGED ANY LONGER!!

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR NAMOR IN HIS OWN ELEMENT!

HE BEGINS TO WEAKEN! I CAN SENSE IT!

OUT!! GET OUT!! ANY WAY AT ALL ...JUMP! JUMP!

BRACE YOURSELF AGAINST THE WALL... HURRY! HURRY!

YOU'VE GOT TO LEAP BEFORE HE REACHES YOU!

AND, IN OBEDIENCE TO THE PUPPET MASTER'S MENTAL COMMAND, THE MOST POWERFUL LEGS IN THE WORLD HURL THE TORMENTED TITAN FORWARD...

HULK MUST OBEY!

BLAM!

AND, SO POWERFUL IS THE LEAP... SO INDESCRIBABLY SHATTERING IS THE FORCE OF IMPACT, THAT...

YOU DID IT! YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR AGAIN! ONCE IN THE AIR, THE ODDS ARE WITH US!

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET HIM RETURN TO THE WATER!!

NOT WHILE HE LIVES!

WHILE, FROM BORDER-TO-BORDER AND COAST-TO-COAST THE BATTLE BULLETINS ARE TRANSMITTED AT ONCE..!

IT'S STILL ANYONE'S FIGHT!

THE TWO OF THEM SEEM INDESTRUCTIBLE!

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO KEEP HANDS OFF!

LOOKS LIKE THE PENTAGON IS TAKING OVER, SIR!

TROOPS ARE BEING RUSHED FROM ALL BASES!

GENERAL! LET ME HEAD A SPECIAL TASK FORCE... ARMED WITH MISSILES!

I'LL STOP THEM!!

IT'S NOT THAT EASY, BLAST IT!

YOU CAN'T FIRE MISSILES OVER A POPULATED AREA!

WE CAN'T DESTROY MIAMI!!

BUT, EVEN AS THE MILITARY PONDERS ITS NEXT MOVE...

I *MUST* FINISH HIM... WHILE MY WATER-INDUCED *STRENGTH* STILL REMAINS!!

FTAM!

BTOK!

AWAY, MONSTROUS ONE!

DEFEND YOURSELF... FOR NAMOR GIVES *NO QUARTER!!*

KRRAKK!

DON'T SHOOT! IT'S *USELESS!*

ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP THE *CROWDS* BACK!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE *PAYOFF!*

NO WORDS OF OURS CAN DO *JUSTICE* TO WHAT FOLLOWS... HENCE, NO WORDS SHALL NOW INTRUDE..!!

PTHOK!

ZAKKKKT

BTOOM!

SUB-MARINER TAKES TO AIR...

THINKS HE CAN CATCH HIS BREATH..THEN ATTACK AGAIN!

BUT THE HULK WILL STOP HIM!

OKAY...IT'S TALKING TIME AGAIN...

BUT, LEAPING IN *PURSUIT* OF HIS FOE, THE *HULK* ACCIDENTALLY STRIKES A HOVERING *WHIRLYBIRD*...

KRAK!

POLICE

PLANE STOPPED MY *JUMP!* HAVE TO *LAND*... AND LEAP *AGAIN!*

THE HULK CANNOT *FLY*... HE CAN ONLY *JUMP!*

HE DOESN'T EVEN *REALIZE* THE PILOT IS PLUNGING TO HIS *DOOM!*

MIGHTY AS THE HULK MAY *BE*...

ONLY *NAMOR* CAN DO WHAT MUST BE *DONE!*

SKRUTCH!

WITH HIS BARE *HANDS*, THE DESPERATE ATLANTEAN *SHATTERS* THE PLEXIGLASS DOME AS THOUGH IT'S MADE OF *PAPER!*

I HAVE NO WISH TO CAUSE THE DEATH OF INNOCENT BEINGS!

AND THEN... WITH *SPLIT-SECONDS* TO SPARE...

I MUST MOVE WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING *SHARK..!*

FOR THE *HULK* IS ALMOST *UPON* ME!

HE *APPROACHES!!* BUT NOW... *NAMOR STANDS READY!!*

THIS IS YOUR *CHANCE!* HE'S RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF YOU!

HE MUST *NOT* LEAVE THE BEACH *ALIVE!!*

HULK DOES NOT *WANT* TO KILL!!

YOU *MUST!* YOU *MUST!*

NO! *NO!*

OBEY ME...OR *DIE!!*

SOMETHING IS *AMISS!* THE GIANT IS SORELY *TROUBLED!!*

HE *HESITATES*... AS THOUGH LACKING THE *WILL* TO CONTINUE!

I MUST *SEIZE* THIS RARE ADVANTAGE!

SUCCESS!! WE ARE IN THE *SEA* ONCE MORE!!

THE *SEA*... WHERE NAMOR IS *KING!*

APPROACH ME, BESTIAL ONE!

'TIS *NOW* YOUR MOMENT OF DARK *DEFEAT!*

YOU *LEAPED*... AS I *KNEW* YOU WOULD!

BUT, NOT *ALL* YOUR BLUDGEONING *POWER* CAN MATCH THE AQUATIC *SPEED* OF THE *AVENGING SON!*

THE SEA IS *MINE* TO COMMAND...*MINE* TO CONTROL...*MINE* TO EMPLOY AS I WILL!!

FIGHT *BACK!!* FIGHT *BACK,* YOU FOOL, BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE!!*

THAT'S IT!! YOU DID IT!! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!!

MUST ESCAPE VOICE IN MY HEAD..!!

EVIL VOICE THAT WILL NOT LET ME REST!!

BUT, THIS TIME THERE IS NO ESCAPE..!

BACK, BESTIAL ONE!! BACK...TO THE RETRIBUTION OF NAMOR!

ONCE AGAIN THE PRINCE OF THE DEEP BEGINS HIS AWESOME ATTACK, CHURNING THE SEA INTO A LIVING HOLOCAUST.. UNTIL...

HULK! HULK!! I CAN'T REACH HIM! I'VE LOST CONTACT!!

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?!! THE HULK HAD THE POWER... AND I HAD THE CONTROL!!

BUT...ONE THING WAS MISSING!! THE ONE VITAL ELEMENT...!

HE DIDN'T POSSESS... THE KILLER INSTINCT!

HE WASTED THE EXTRA STRENGTH HE NEEDED...TRYING TO RESIST MY COMMANDS!

AND NOW, IT'S TOO LATE! I'VE... WAIT!!

UP ABOVE... COMING OUT OF THE SEA...A MONSTROUS, GIGANTIC TIDAL WAVE!

NAMOR CAUSED IT... WITH HIS DEADLY GYRATIONS... WITH HIS ACCURSED, SEA-BORNE POWER!!

HE COULDN'T KNOW... COULDN'T SUSPECT... THAT THIS LONELY, SEEMINGLY-DESERTED DESERT ISLAND... IS THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE PUPPET MASTER!!

BUT...THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN... NO SHELTER... NO ESCAPE!

IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS... IT CAN'T!!

THE PLAN WAS MINE!! I CAN'T BECOME ITS VICTIM..!! NO!! NO!!

BUT, *FATE* HAS A WILL OF ITS OWN...AND, IN THE SPACE OF A SINGLE HEARTBEAT, THE ENTIRE ISLE IS *INUNDATED* BY A HUNDRED-FOOT HIGH WALL OF *WATER*... WHICH SWEEPS ALL BEFORE IT WITH A DEAFENING ROAR...!

NOOOOOOOO..

WOOF

MINUTES LATER, THE TORRENT *SUBSIDES*...AS THE GHOSTLY STILLNESS IS FINALLY SHATTERED BY A SOARING FIGURE...

IT WAS NOT IN MY HEART TO CAUSE HIS *DEATH!*

THUS, I ALLOWED HIM TO BE WASHED *ASHORE!*

BUT NOW I MUST *FIND* HIM...LEST HE ATTACK *AGAIN!*

THERE..ON THE SHORE BELOW... IT *MUST* BE...

BUT *NO!* HE IS TOO *FRAIL*... TOO *SMALL*..!

FOR LONG, PUZZLED MOMENTS, PRINCE NAMOR STUDIES THE EXHAUSTED FIGURE BENEATH HIM...LITTLE DREAMING THAT HE HAS *FOUND* THE ONE HE SEEKS...IN THE PERSON OF A NOW-TRANSFORMED *BRUCE BANNER*..!

HE STIRS... BEGINS TO WAKEN!

BUT, HE IS OF *LITTLE* INTEREST TO THE *SUB-MARINER!*

PERHAPS THE HULK HAS *PERISHED!*

IF SO, HE IS RICHLY *DESERVING* OF SUCH A FATE!

AS FOR *ME*...THE *SEA* STILL BECKONS... AND *NAMOR* MUST EVER ANSWER HER ETERNAL *CALL*...!

SO WRAPPED IN HIS OWN *THOUGHTS* IS HE, THAT THE DEPARTING MONARCH DOESN'T NOTICE A SMALL *PUPPET* SLOWLY SINKING BENEATH THE SURF...THE FINAL, DYING VESTIGE OF A MADMAN'S MASTER PLAN..!!

MARVEL™
COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND. | 101 MAR
MCG

TALES TO ASTONISH

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INCREDIBLE HULK™

AND

THE SUB-MARINER™

WHERE WALK THE IMMORTALS!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

HAVING FOUGHT THE SENSATIONAL *SUB-MARINER* TO A STANDSTILL LAST ISH, A BONE-WEARY *BRUCE BANNER* REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS ON A LONELY, WIND-SWEPT ISLE--

"WHERE WALK THE IMMORTALS!"

SUDDENLY, AT THE MYSTIC *COMMAND* OF A FAR-OFF FIGURE, HIDDEN AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY, AN EERIE *CHANGE* COMES OVER THE STARTLED MAN--

--AND THE HULK IS BORN AGAIN!

PANORAMICALLY PRODUCED BY--
STAN LEE & MARIE SEVERIN
INKING: F. GIACOIA
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, IN THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD--THE LEGENDARY LAND BEYOND THE STARS--

'TIS DONE! HE IS A MONSTER ONCE MORE!

AND NOW, HE SHALL SERVE THE ENDS OF LOKI, PRINCE OF EVIL!

HOW FORTUNATE THAT I NOTICED HIM UPON THAT ISLE--WHILST I WAS SEEKING THE ACCURSED THOR!

FOR, I HAVE FEARED REGAL ODIN WOULD DISCOVER THE THUNDER GOD'S PERIL --AND HASTEN TO AID HIM!

"THUS SHALL I USE MY ENCHANTED POWER TO TRANSPORT THE HULK TO ASGARD--"

"--WHERE THE RAMPAGING GIANT SHALL PROVE SUCH A MENACE THAT ODIN WILL HAVE NO TIME TO THINK OF THOR..."

AND SO --THE WONDER-MENT BEGINS--!

BY THE DEADLY DREAD OF RAGNAROK!!

WHO DARES TRAVERSE THE RAINBOW BRIDGE WITHOUT THE LEAVE OF HEIMDALL?

GO THEE BACK--THOU GREEN-SKINNED MORTAL!!

ASGARD'S GLORY BE NOT FOR SUCH AS THEE!

BACK, I SAY!

FOR NONE WHO LIVE MAY DEFY THE CHALLENGE OF HIM WHO GUARDS THE PATH TO ASGARD!

WHAT?? --STILL THOU DOST ADVANCE?

THEN, UPON THINE OWN HEAD SHALL BE THE CONSE-QUENCE!

SHOOOSH!

UNHHH!

NONE, SAVE IMMORTALS BORN--AND ALL TOO FEW OF THEM--

--CAN WITHSTAND THE SHATTERING IMPACT OF HEIMDALL'S SABRE OF SORCERY!

I--DON'T KNOW-- WHERE I AM--

BUT NOBODY-- DOES THAT TO--THE HULK!!

BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN!!

THOU DOST NOT FALL!

WHAT MANNER OF BEING ART THOU.??!

I, WHO CAN SEE A HUMMINGBIRD'S WING, THOUGH HE BE A UNIVERSE AWAY--

I, WHO CAN HEAR THE RUSTLING OF A LEAF WITHIN SOME DISTANT GALAXY--

NEVER HAVE I WITNESSED SO MIGHTY A MORTAL!

SO--YOU CAN HEAR A LEAF WHEN IT TREMBLES.!

IF YOUR EARS ARE THAT SENSITIVE--

LET'S SEE WHAT THIS DOES TO THEM.!

KA-BOOM

NOT ONLY DOES THE DEAFENING SOUND JAR THE STARTLED IMMORTAL--

BUT THE PULVERIZING POWER OF THE BLOW ITSELF CAUSES THE ETHEREAL BRIDGE TO UNBALANCE ITS OWN ETERNAL GUARDIAN--!

NOBODY STOPS THE HULK!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES--

INVINCIBLE HEIMDALL HATH BEEN SUDDENLY OVERCOME!

THEN, BEFORE THE RAGING SENTRY CAN RESUME HIS ATTACK--

WITH ONE MIGHTY *LEAP*, HE DOTH CLEAR THE VERY GATES OF *ASGARD!*

BUT, SINCE *HEIMDALL* MAY NEVER LEAVE HIS ORDAINED POST--

IT SHALL BE FOR THOSE *WITHIN* TO CRUSH THE ATTACK OF YON GREEN-HUED *INVADER!*

DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM--

OR HOW I *GOT* HERE!

BUT I'LL *FIND OUT*-- WHEN I REACH THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT *WALL!*

GOOD! GOOD! ALL GOES AS *LOKI* PLANNED!

WHEN *ODIN* LEARNS OF THE MORTAL'S *INVASION*, HE SHALL *FORGET* THE PLIGHT OF HIS OWN HAPLESS *SON!*

THUS, THOR SHALL *PERISH*--AND ASGARD WILL ONE DAY BE *MINE* FOR THE TAKING!

AND, EVEN AS LOKI *GLOATS*--

THE HEART OF *ODIN* DOTH BEAT HEAVY!

MANY ARE THE *CARES* THAT DO BESET MY REGAL BREAST!

BUT, IF THE OMNIPOTENT ONE THINKS *HE* HAS TROUBLES--HOW ABOUT OUR HULKABLE *HERO*--?

HALT, INTRUDER!

TURN, AND GIRD THYSELF FOR FITTING *BATTLE!*

YOU THINK THE *HULK* IS SCARED OF *BATTLE*,??

I CAN BEAT ANYONE WHO *LIVES!!*

THOU SHALT HAVE THY *CHANCE*--

AGAINST THE PROWESS OF-- *HOGUN!*

BUT, KNOW YE-- HOGUN THE GRIM DOTH NOT ATTACK AN UNARMED FOE!

SEIZE THOU YON WEAPON--AND LET THE COMBAT BEGIN!

WEAPON?!?

WHAT DOES THE HULK WANT WITH A WEAPON?!?

FFBTSM!

MY OWN STRENGTH IS THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL!

WHAT THUNDROUS NOISE HATH JUST ASSAILED MY SHELL-LIKE EAR, DASHING FANDRAL?

SEE FOR THYSELF, VOLUMINOUS ONE!

THE BATTLE-WISE HOGUN HATH BEEN UNHORSED BY AN UNARMED MORTAL!!

EVEN NOW THEY COME TO GRIPS IN THE MANNER OF SAVAGE BARBARIANS!

BY MY GODLY *GIRTH!*

THE UNARMED ONE DARES PLUNGE TO THE HEART OF *ASGARD*-- FAR BELOW!

KNOW YOU THAT HOGUN BE *IMMORTAL!*

NO MERE *FALL* MAY STAY MY RIGHTEOUS *WRATH!*

HOW CANST *THOU* SURVIVE?

ZOK!

I'M THE *HULK!*

I CAN DO *ANYTHING!*

AT LAST! A FOE MOST *WORTHY* OF OUR SKILL!

YON GREEN-SKINNED GLADIATOR HATH POWER ENOW FOR US *ALL!*

LET US *HASTEN* TO THE FRAY, BEFORE IT BE UNTIMELY *ENDED!*

MOST GENEROUS *VOLSTAGG* SHALL PERMIT *THEE* TO BE THE FIRST!

SINCE MINE *OWN* PROWESS BE SO AWESOME, 'TWOULD BE *UNSEEMLY* TO HURL IT AGAINST *ONE* FOE ALONE!

AND, FROM A NEARBY VANTAGE POINT--LOOK WHO'S HERE--

PERFECT! PERFECT!

SOON, THE SOUNDS OF COMBAT WILL REACH THE EARS OF *ODIN!*

THE MORE *DAMAGE* THAT IS DONE, THE LONGER IT WILL KEEP HIM FROM AIDING THE *GOD OF THUNDER!*

'TIS THE WISH OF *LOKI* THAT ASGARD *ITSELF* MAY CRUMBLE IN THE PROCESS!

AHH, VOLSTAGG-- WOULDST THOU COULD BATTLE WITH THY *LIMBS* AS WELL AS WITH THY CEASELESS *BOASTS!*

BOASTS??! FIE UPON THEE, FANDRAL! VOLSTAGG IS THE VERY SOUL OF *MODESTY!*

OTHERS COME TO ATTACK THE *HULK!*

NO MATTER HOW *MANY*-- I'LL CRUSH THEM *ALL!*

NAY! THOU ART *MINE!* I CLAIM THEE *FIRST!*

BY MY BLADE! WHAT MANNER OF *BEING* DO WE FACE??

HE HATH *STRENGTH* BEYOND MEASURE--

AND *COURAGE* ENOW TO MATCH!

HOW *CHARITABLE* IS NOBLE *VOLSTAGG!*

BAH! ONE MAN ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH FOR *HULK* TO FIGHT!

HE HESITATES TO HURL HIS *STRENGTH* AGAINST SO *HELPLESS* A FOE!

TRULY THE STRANGER DOTH KNOW *NO FEAR!*

AY! A PITY HE BE NOT *ASGARD-IAN BORN!*

FANDRAL!! HOGUN!! I BEG THEE-- *RESTRAIN ME!* HOLD ME *BACK!*

I HAVE NO WISH TO *DESTROY* YON STRANGER WITH BUT A *SINGLE* BLOW!

VOLSTAGG CRIES *UNFAIR!*

I AM VICTIM OF *TRICKERY* MOST BASE!

EVERYWHERE MEN BATTLE THE HULK! BUT *NEVER* WILL THEY WIN!

HULK HAS NO WISH FOR FURTHER *FIGHTING!*

WHO *ARE* YOU? WHERE *AM* I? WHY AM I *HERE?*

HAH! AT THE MERE *MENTION* OF VOLSTAGG'S NAME--THE FEARFUL ONE HATH *LOST* THE *WILL TO FIGHT!*

THOU KNOWEST *NOT* WHAT PLACE THIS BE?

METHINKS THE MIGHTY STRANGER HATH BEEN *BEWITCHED!* THERE IS NO *EVIL* IN ONE SUCH AS *HE!*

BUT, AT THAT FATEFUL MOMENT--THE EVENT WHICH CRAFTY *LOKI* HAD DESIRED SUDDENLY COMES TO PASS--

BY THE *GOLDEN GATES!!* OUR WARRIORS ASSEMBLED NOW LEAP TO THE *ATTACK!*

THEY THINK THE GREEN-SKINNED ONE DOTH *THREATEN* THE REALM ETERNAL!

ALL-- STAY THEE BACK!!

'TIS TO *NO AVAIL!* THE DIN *DROWNS OUT* THE CRY OF *FANDRAL!*

BUT, THERE BE *ANOTHER* WAY--!

IF THOU HEEDEST NOT MY *WORDS*--

THE *BLADE* OF FANDRAL SHALL GIVE THEE *PAUSE!!*

SPANG!

BACK--OR FACE THE WRATH OF MOUNTAINOUS *VOLSTAGG!*

THOUGH HIS *POWER* BE AKIN TO *THOR* HIMSELF--

HOGUN DOTH SAY HE BE *NOT* AN ENEMY!

AND SO SPEAKS *FANDRAL!*

THEY LIE!!

THEY BE IN *LEAGUE* WITH THE SAVAGE MONSTER!

SO SPEAKS *LOKI!!*

THE MONSTER MUST BE *SLAIN!!*

ONLY A *COWARD*-- OR A *TRAITOR*-- WOULD SHIRK SUCH A TASK!

WHICH ONE *ART* THOU, HOGUN??

THOU KNOWEST FULL *WELL* I CANNOT STRIKE THE SON OF *ODIN!!*

ELSE MY *MACE* WOULD ANSWER FOR ME!

'TIS *USELESS!* I CANNOT PROVOKE A *FIGHT!* THEY BE TOO *WISE!*

I WISHED FOR *BATTLE*--FOR ONLY *THAT* WOULD SERVE MY PURPOSE!

AND, IN *FAILURE,* THE PRINCE OF EVIL IS *DEADLIEST* OF ALL--!!

BUT, LOKI HATH *FAILED!*

SHARE THOU MY *SADDLE--*

FOR WE SHALL LEAP ACROSS THE *BOTTOMLESS CHASM--*

TO SEEK THE WISDOM OF *OLDAR, THE ORACLE!*

NO! HULK NEEDS *NO HORSE!*

HULK'S OWN *LEGS* CAN JUMP OVER *ANYTHING!*

THIS IS MY CHANCE!

THE MONSTER HAS *FAILED* ME--

THUS, THE MONSTER MUST *DIE!!*

AND, JUST AS THE SOARING TITAN REACHES THE *APOGEE* OF HIS LEAP--

A SHRILL, CACKLING *VOICE* BARKS OUT ONE SINGLE INCANTATION-- AND THE MOST INCREDIBLE *TRANSFORMATION* OF ALL TAKES PLACE ONCE MORE--

IN A *STRANGE WORLD--* THAT I CAN'T COMPRE-HEND--

I'M *PLUNGING* TO CERTAIN *DOOM!*

I'VE BECOME *--BRUCE BANNER* AGAIN!!

I--I'M *FALLING--* INTO THE YAWNING *CHASM* BELOW--

11

NEXT ISSUE...

THE HULK IN HIS OWN MAG AT LONG LAST!!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

12¢ IND. | 102 APR

MCG

BIG PREMIERE ISSUE!

THE WORLD'S *MOST POWERFUL MORTAL*... IN HIS OWN FULL-LENGTH MAGAZINE *AT LAST*-- *ORIGIN* AND ALL!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

"—THIS WORLD NOT HIS OWN!"

HAVING BEEN TRANSPORTED TO **ASGARD** BY THE FIENDISH **LOKI,** A CONFUSED, TORMENTED **HULK** SEEKS THE GUIDANCE OF **OLDAR, THE ORACLE!** BUT, AS THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH LEAPS ACROSS A BOTTOMLESS CHASM, THE MYSTIC POWER OF THE NORSE **GOD OF EVIL** STRIKES AGAIN...

STRANGE FORCE... SURGING THROUGH...

HULK...LOSING POWER... STARTING TO **FALL!**

CAN'T REACH...OTHER **SIDE!** CHANGING TO... **BRUCE BANNER!**

NO ONE CAN SAVE ME **NOW!** IN THIS STRANGE WORLD... BEYOND ALL **UNDERSTANDING...**

...I'M FALLING TO MY **DEATH!**

AND WITH THAT, ACTION LOVERS, **AWAAAAY** WE GO!

STAN LEE
PANORAMICALLY PRESENTS
THIS PULSE-POUNDING
PREMIERE BY:
GARY FRIEDRICH
and
MARIE SEVERIN

INKED BY: GEORGE TUSKA

LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

THEN, WITHIN SECONDS, THE *TRANSFORMATION* IS COMPLETED--AND *BRUCE BANNER* PLUMMETS HELPLESSLY THRU THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS VOID!

BUT, AS DEATH RUSHES EVER NEARER THE MORTAL SCIENTIST IS *UNAWARE* OF THE COLD, CALCULATING EYES WHICH BEHOLD HIS PITIFUL PLIGHT FROM SOME ONE HUNDRED FEET *BELOW*...

ONLY HAVE *SECONDS* TO LIVE!

MY ENTIRE LIFE... FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES... *BETTY ROSS*... *RICK JONES*, THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD *FAITH* IN ME!

I--I'LL BE CHEATED OF THE CHANCE TO EASE THE *PAIN* I'VE CAUSED THEM... BY *DEATH*!

LOOK... *ABOVE*... HURTLING TOWARD US FROM ASGARD *ABOVE*... 'TIS... A *MAN*... NOT UNLIKE A *MORTAL* IN APPEARANCE!

TRUE... BUT, IF HE *BE* A MORTAL, THEN HE FALLS TOWARD A FATE MOST *FITTING*!

FOR, YON CHASM LEADS BACK TO THE REALM OF HIS OWN KIND... *EARTH*!

BESIDES, WHAT TIME HAVE THE *EXECUTIONER* AND THE *ENCHANTRESS* FOR SUCH PETTY MATTERS... WHEN THE *REALM ETERNAL* SOON WILL BE OURS FOR THE *TAKING*?

HOWEVER, AS THE SEEMINGLY DOOMED EARTH-MAN PLUNGES ***PAST*** THE VANTAGE POINT OF THE BANISHED ASGARDIANS...

BUT, THE MORTAL MAY HAVE TIDINGS OF ***HERCULES***...HE TO WHOM I HAVE GIVEN MINE ***HEART!***

HE MUST BE ***SPARED!***

I SAY THEE ***NAY***... LEST THE LONGINGS OF THY FEMALE HEART INTERFERE WITH FAR MORE ***IMPORTANT*** PROCEEDINGS!

BUT, BEFORE HER PARTNER IN EVIL CAN ***ACT,*** A SINGLE GESTURE FROM THE BEAUTEOUS MISTRESS OF ENCHANTMENT SENDS A BOLT OF PURE, MYSTIC ***ENERGY*** HURTLING THROUGH THE VOID, UNTIL...

SOME STRANGE FORCE...SLOWING MY ***DESCENT***... SUSPENDING ME IN ***MID-AIR!***

PERHAPS...ALL IS NOT ***LOST!*** THERE STILL MAY BE...***HOPE!***

AND INDEED, SECONDS ***LATER***...

THE MORTAL IS ***SAVED!*** NOW I MUST BRING HIM ***TO*** ME!

FIE! BEFORE THIS DAY IS DONE, YOU SHALL ***REGRET*** THIS ACTION...FOR SUCH A DELAY CAN ONLY ***HINDER*** OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE INVASION OF ***ASGARD!***

I'M BEING ***LIFTED*** ...BY SOME STRANGE FORCE WHICH SEEMS TO COME FROM THAT ***WOMAN*** ON THE LEDGE ABOVE ME!

THEN, AS THE STARTLED SCIENTIST IS LIFTED TO SAFETY, THE EYES OF THREE ***ASGARDIANS*** PEER INTO THE BLACK EMPTINESS OF THE CHASM INTO WHICH HE FELL FROM HIGH ABOVE...

I FEAR THE GREEN-HUED STRANGER HATH MET HIS ***DEATH*** BY NOW! FOR HE FADED FROM SIGHT LONG ***MINUTES*** AGO!

YAY, VOLSTAGG! FOR ONCE WE BE IN ***AGREEMENT!*** TRULY NO MAN, EVEN IF HE BE ***IMMORTAL***, COULD SURVIVE SUCH A ***PLUNGE!***

THEN ALL THAT BE LEFT IS FOR US TO ***CONTINUE*** OUR JOURNEY TO CONSULT ***OLDAR!*** PERHAPS ***SHE*** HATH THE POWER TO ENLIGHTEN US AS TO FROM WHENCE THE STRANGER ***CAME***... AND FROM WHENCE HE RECEIVED SUCH ***STRENGTH***...AND ***VALOR!***

THUS, AFTER AN HOUR'S RIDE, THE THREE IMMORTALS FIND THEMSELVES AT THE EDGE OF A DARK, MYSTERIOUS **FOREST...**

HO! AHEAD LOOMS THE FORBIDDEN FOREST... AND THE ENCHANTED **GONG!** TO STRIKE ITS SURFACE IS TO SUMMON **OLDAR, THE ORACLE!**

AND SURELY NONE BE MORE SUITED TO PERFORM THAT DEED THAN **VOLSTAGG!** WHAT **SAY** THEE, VALOROUS ONE?

I? SURELY HOGUN DOTH **JEST!** THE FIGHTING COURAGE OF VOLSTAGG NEED NOT BE WASTED ON SUCH TRIVIAL CHORES!

BE IT THE DEED'S LACK OF **IMPORTANCE** ...OR THE EERIE **SURROUNDINGS** WHICH MAKE THEE SHY AWAY?

THOU DOST SPEAK THE WORDS OF A **COWARD,** HOGUN! BUT, IF **THOU** BE AFRAID TO PERFORM SAID TASK, THEN VOLSTAGG **WELCOMES** THE CHALLENGE!

THERE BE LITTLE TO FEAR IN PLAYING BUT A **MUSICAL INSTRUMENT** FOR ONE WHO HATH FACED **DEATH** THOUSANDS OF TIMES... **BE** THERE?

KNOW YOU, HOWEVER-- BUT FOR THE COURAGE OF **VOLSTAGG,** THOU WOULDST REMAIN FOREVER **IGNORANT** OF THE DEPARTED STRANGER!

HO! WHAT TRICKERY IS **THIS?**

THE VIBRATIONS DO HURL ME **BACK...** AS THOUGH I WERE BUT A LEAF IN A **GALE!**

THEN, AS THE AMAZED ASGARDIAN WARRIORS LOOK ON IN AWE-STRICKEN SILENCE, A GHASTLY **APPARITION** TAKES SHAPE OUT OF THE VIBRATING AIR WAVES WHERE ONCE THE **GONG** STOOD...

STAND YE **STILL,** MY STEED! IN YON CLEARING... **THE ORACLE COMES!**

NOLO BACK, YE COME FROM LAND AFAR, YE STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF... **OLDAR!**

LOOK! 'TIS SOME... SOME FEARSOME **GHOSTLY IMAGE!** LET US **FLEE...** LEST IT BE SOME ALL-CONSUMING FORCE OF **EVIL!**

STAND FIRM, YE HAVE NO NEED TO FEAR-- 'TWAS YOU WHO SUMMONED OLDAR HERE!

DRAW NEAR AND STATE WHAT YE MUST KNOW, ERE YOUR TIME BE GONE--AND I MUST GO!

BEWARE, MY FRIENDS! VOLSTAGG WILL SPARE YOU FROM THE EVIL SPELLS OF YON FRIGHTFUL WITCH!

STAND THEE BACK, VOLSTAGG! THIS IS OLDAR, SHE OF WHOM WE HATH COME IN SEARCH!

BUT NOW YOUR SEARCH HATH ENDED HERE, LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND COME YOU NEAR!

TRUST HER NOT, MINE GULLIBLE COMPANIONS! YON FIENDISH APPARITION BE EVIL PERSONIFIED! HER ONLY WISH IS TO SLAY US!

STILL THY TONGUE, COWARDLY ONE! OUR ONLY PURPOSE BE TO HEAR OLDAR... AND HEAR HER WE SHALL!

THEN SILENT BE THEE WHILE I ENHANCE, THE SPIRITS OF MY ALL-KNOWING TRANCE!

THROUGH ENDLESS TIME AND VOIDLESS SPACE, LET MY MYSTIC MIGHT ALL BARRIERS ERASE! THAT OLDAR NOW MAY LET BE KNOWN, THE POWERS VESTED IN HER ALONE!

NEVER HAVE MINE EYES BEHELD SUCH MAGIC! IN BUT THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE HER AGE HATH BEEN REDUCED BY COUNTLESS YEARS!

THAT IS BUT A TRACE OF OLDAR'S POWERS! THOU SHALT SEE MORE IN THE COMING HOURS! BUT YE CAME TO LEARN OF IMPENDING DANGER-- WHICH LOOMS FOR ASGARD DUE TO A STRANGER!

FOR THE LAST TIME, BANNER--STOP THIS INSANE PROJECT! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

NO, IGOR! WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO SUCCESS...TOO CLOSE TO GIVING OUR COUNTRY A WEAPON SO POWERFUL IT CAN ASSURE WORLD PEACE FOREVER!

HE CAME TO ASGARD FROM EARTH BELOW-- NOW, OF HIM YOU SHALL LEARN ALL I KNOW!

"THEN AS THE SCIENTIST DID WAIT, THE TEST WHICH COULD DECIDE EARTH'S **FATE**, THE **G-BOMB** SAT IN WAITFUL SILENCE, FOR A **FINGER** TO TOUCH OFF ITS TERRIBLE **VIOLENCE!**"

IN JUST A FEW MORE **SECONDS**, WE'LL KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE **GAMMA RAYS** ARE RELEASED IN THE MOST POWERFUL EXPLOSION MAN HAS EVER **KNOWN!**

WAIT! GOOD LORD, THERE'S A BOY DRIVING THROUGH THE **TEST AREA!** HE'LL BE **KILLED!**

...UNLESS I CAN GET OUT THERE AND **WARN** HIM...BEFORE IT'S **TOO LATE!**

IGOR! DELAY THE COUNT DOWN UNTIL I CAN GET THAT KID TO **SAFETY** ...AND DON'T WASTE A **SECOND!**

CERTAINLY, DR. BANNER! WHATEVER YOU **SAY!**

I'VE WORKED IN BANNER'S SHADOW **LONG ENOUGH!** THIS IS MY CHANCE TO **TAKE OVER!**

IF I DON'T ISSUE THE ORDER, IT'LL BE BYE-BYE **BANNER!**

"THEN, IGNORING ALL IMPENDING DANGER... BRUCE BANNER RISKED ALL TO SAVE A **STRANGER!**"

KID...GET OUTTA HERE! YOU'RE IN A FORBIDDEN TEST AREA!

COOL IT, DADDY! IT AIN'T LIKE THEY WERE BLOWIN' THE **BIG ONE** OR SOMETHIN'!

GUESS AGAIN, BOY! A TEST BOMB'S SET TO GO OFF ANY **SECOND!** COME ON!

DON'T HAND ME THAT JIVE, MAN! I GOTTA... **BOMB?** ANY **SECOND?**

"AS HE CALLED BANNER DASHED FOR COVER, THE FATEFUL FINGER OF **ANOTHER,** REACHED OUT AND TOUCHED THE BUTTON DREAD, WHICH PAINTED BANNER'S FUTURE...DEAD!"

4 5 6 7 8 9 3 2 1 FIRE P

THERE! YOU'RE SAFELY IN THE **SHELTER** AND... **AAGGGHHHH!**

"AND THOUGH HE STOOD, LO MILES AWAY... HIS BODY ABSORBED THE GAMMA RAYS!"

THROUGH ENDLESS MOMENTS OF TORTURED PAIN, SHEER AGONY DEVOURED HIS BRAIN!"

BUT THEN, THOUGH FOR HOURS DOOM DID IMPEND... THE NIGHTMARE OF HORROR DID FINALLY END!"

THERE, DOCTOR! IT'S ALL OVER NOW! YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT... THOUGH GOD KNOWS HOW YOU LIVED THROUGH THE BLAST!

"THEN, AFTER DAYS OF AGONIZING TESTS, THEY LEFT THE DOCTOR ALONE TO REST! BUT SINCE HIS MIND WAS SHOCKED AND HAZED THEY LEFT WITH HIM THE BOY HE'D SAVED!"

GEEZ, DOC--I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DID IT! YOU COULD'A GOT ZAPPED OUT... JUST TO SAVE A PUNK LIKE ME!

FORGET IT, RICK! I JUST...OOHHH, SOME SORT OF STRANGE TINGLING...PULSING THROUGH... MY BODY!

EVERY FIBRE OF MY BEING...FEELS AS THOUGH...IT'S BEING RIPPED...APART! MIND...SPINNING! EVERYTHING... GOING BLANK!

DOC... WHAT IS IT, DOC? WANT ME TO CALL FOR HELP?

"WHILE HELPLESS, THE LAD LOOKED ON IN VAIN, THE AIR WAS SHATTERED BY SCREAMS OF PAIN!"

RAAGGH!

"BUT WHEN THE PAIN AWAY HAD WORN, A CREATURE CALLED THE HULK WAS BORN!"

FEEL...STRANGE... DIFFERENT! FEEL...STRONG... STRONGER THAN ANYONE!

MAN! THIS HAS GOTTA BE A--A GAG! YOU-- YOU'RE SOME KIND'A... MONSTER!

YOU...GET OUT OF WAY! ME NOT LISTEN TO ANYONE! ME TO POWERFUL TO TAKE ORDERS! NO ONE STRONG AS ME!

ME GO! MUST KILL... DESTROY! MUST PROVE TO WORLD NO ONE STRONGER!

AND SO THE **HULK** WAS COME TO BE, POWER INCARNATE, SUCH STRENGTH HAD HE!

BUT SURELY THOU DOEST NOT MEAN HE HAD STRENGTH EQUAL TO THAT OF THE GODS **THEMSELVES!** SURELY HE WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR SUCH AS **WE!**

SILENCE, VALOROUS ONE--THAT WE MAY LEARN **MORE** OF THIS BEING MEN CALL... **THE HULK!**

"**THOUGH** AT TIMES HIS THOUGHTS OF **HATE** WOULD CEASE, HIS FELLOW MAN GAVE THE HULK NO **PEACE...**"

HULK NOT **WANT** TO HARM ANYONE! HULK ONLY WANT TO BE LEFT **ALONE!** WHY MEN ALWAYS **HUNT** HULK?

WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE HULK IN **PEACE?** WHY THEY ALWAYS HOUND HULK...TRY TO **KILL** HULK?

THIS IS **IT,** HULK! EITHER SURRENDER-- OR WE'LL BLAST YOU INTO **OBLIVION!**

ALWAYS **SHOOTING** AT HULK! HULK **TIRED** OF BEING SHOT AT! HULK **SHOW** ARMY!

THWAK

"**AND** TO FURTHER **TORMENT** THIS BEING MOST STRANGE, AT INFREQUENT INTERVALS HIS BODY WOULD **CHANGE!**"

I--I'VE CHANGED BACK TO **BRUCE BANNER** AGAIN! PERHAPS NOW I CAN GET **HELP...**

...BEFORE I BECOME... **THE HULK** AGAIN!

SO YOU'VE ADMITTED YOU'RE THE **HULK?** SO **WHAT?** THE ONLY WAY IT **MEANS** ANYTHING IS IF YOU AGREE TO LET US **DESTROY** YOU!

IT'S NO **USE!** THEY DON'T **UNDERSTAND!** BUT...MAYBE THEY'RE **RIGHT!** MAYBE I **SHOULD** BE KILLED!

AND SO IT WENT BOTH NIGHT AND DAY, AS A **DESPERATE MAN** SOUGHT TO FIND A WAY, TO PUT AN END TO HIS DUAL LIFE, AND SAVE HIS FELLOW MAN ENDLESS **STRIFE!**

"BUT, LO THERE **WAS** NO EASY WAY FOR SUCH AS HE MEN TO IMPOUND, AND SO HE STALKED LIKE BEAST AT BAY FOR MEN TO HUNT, AND HATE, AND **HOUND!**"

NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY **TRY**... THEY'LL **NEVER** KILL HULK!

EVERYONE **FEARS** HULK! BUT...NO ONE **UNDER-STANDS!** HULK MUST ALWAYS BE... **ALONE!**

NO PLACE FOR HULK TO **HIDE!** EVERYWHERE MEN **KNOW** HIM... **CHASE** HIM...GIVE HIM NO **PEACE!**

MUST BE DESTROY

HULK CA PANIC IN FEAR GR

AIR FORCE BAS IN SHAMBLES-HU HULK ESCAPE

LEADERS UNITE IN WAR

COAST TO COAS SEARCH IS ON F HULK BI

SO HULK HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO **MAKE** HIS PEACE...WITH HIS **STRENGTH!**

© WORLD PRESS

PRESIDENT C ORDERS F HULK

HULK DESTRO NAVAL FORCES JOIN IN B

"**AND SO IT WAS WHAT MAN HAD WROUGHT, HE SOUGHT TO PUT ASUNDER! HIS GREATEST HEROES **FOUGHT** THE HULK, LIKE **THOR**, THE GOD OF THUNDER!"**

"**UNTIL HIS MIND GREW **CLOUDED**, AND HE KNEW NOT RIGHT FROM **WRONG**, THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF ALL **MANKIND** BECAME HIS BATTLE SONG!"**

ALL MEN HATE HULK-- AND HULK HATE ALL **MEN!** HULK CAN'T HAVE **REST** TILL THEY ALL **DIE!**

"**THE **EXECUTIONER, SILVER SURFER, SUB-MARINER**, AND MANY MORE, COULD NOT HALT HIS VENGEFUL WRATH-- AND NOW HE THREATENS **ASGARD'S DOOR!**"**

TELL US **MORE**, O ALL-KNOWING ORACLE! YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH THE GREEN-SKINNED BEHEMOTH YET **LIVES**-- AND MAY **ATTACK** FAIR ASGARD!

*THAT BE FOR **THEE** TO SORT OUT-- BEFORE THIS DAY IS O'ER, FOR OF **THIS** ORACLE'S PRECIOUS TIME, I FEAR YOU HAVE NO **MORE!***

SHE AGES--FADES FROM OUR VERY SIGHT...LIKE SOME ENCHANTED WRAITH!

AYE...AND WITHOUT TELLING US THAT WHICH WE MOST DESPERATELY SOUGHT TO LEARN...

...WHETHER THE GROTESQUE STRANGER STILL LIVES! AND, IF HE DOES...DOES HE INDEED THREATEN THE REALM ETERNAL!

AND, AS THE ASGARDIANS PONDER THAT BURNING QUESTIONS, LITTLE DO THEY REALIZE THAT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE ANSWER IS BEING FORMULATED THOUSANDS OF FEET BELOW THEM...

SPEAK, MORTAL--'ERE MY PATIENCE GROWS THIN! TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW OF THE AVENGER CALLED HERCULES!

I--I DON'T KNOW ANY HERCULES! THERE ARE MILLIONS OF MEN ON EARTH--I DON'T KNOW THEM ALL!

HAVE YOU NOT HEARD ENOUGH? CAN YOU NOT SEE THE MORTAL HAS NOT THE INFORMATION YOU SEEK?

YOU ARE RIGHT! SLAY HIM! HE SERVES US NO PURPOSE!

I SHALL DO EXACTLY THAT! NOW, MORTAL--PREPARE TO TASTE THE DEATH BLOW OF...THE EXECUTIONER!

IT--IT'S ALL SO UNREAL! THESE STRANGE PEOPLE... WITH THEIR ARCHAIC SPEECH PATTERNS!

THEY SAVE MY LIFE... THEN ASK ME ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF A CHARACTER FROM ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY...AS IF I SHOULD KNOW HIM!

THEN, BECAUSE I CAN'T ANSWER...THEY'RE GOING TO SLAY ME! WHAT SORT OF MADNESS IS THIS? AM I TO DIE WITHOUT LEARNING?

SUDDENLY, ALMOST AS IF IN ANSWER TO BRUCE BANNER'S QUESTION...

WHAT BASE TRICKERY IS THIS?

HAVE MY EYES FAILED ME? AM I GOING MAD?

THEN, AS THE TWO EVIL IMMORTALS LOOK ON IN ***DIS-BELIEF,*** THE MOST AMAZING TRANSFORMATION IN ***MARVELDOM**** ONCE AGAIN TAKES PLACE...

*OR IN ANY ***OTHER*** DOM FOR THAT MATTER! --SET-IT-STRAIGHT STAN.

IT--IT'S HAPPENING ***AGAIN!*** NO WAY...TO ***STOP*** IT!

BODY... ***STRAINING!*** EVERY MUSCLE... ***THROBBING...*** I'M ONCE MORE BECOMING...

THE HULK!

BEHOLD!

BEFORE MY VERY EYES THE EARTH-MAN HATH TURNED INTO THE ***GREEN-SKINNED BEHEMOUTH...***

--WITH WHOM I DID DO BATTLE ONCE ***BEFORE!****

*WAY BACK IN ***ASTONISH#77,*** REMEMBER? --SURE-FIRE STAN.

STAND THEE ***BACK,*** EXECUTIONER--WHILST THE SPELLS OF THE ***ENCHANTRESS*** HALT THE THREAT OF YON THREATENING CREATURE!

BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD --LET THE MONSTER BE...

NAY!

WHEN LAST I MET THIS LOATHSOME GARGOYLE, I TASTED THE BITTER WINE OF ***DEFEAT!***

BUT ***NOW,*** MINE ENCHANTED AXE SHALL SHOW THE BEAST NO ***QUARTER!***

IT BE ONLY ***FITTING*** THAT HE DIE BY MY ***BLADE!***

YOU HELD THE WEAK-LING ***BANNER***--BUT NO MAN CAN KEEP ***HULK*** PRISONER!

WHUMP!

HAH! I WAS TOO FAST--DODGED YOUR PUNY AXE!

NOW YOU FEEL STRENGTH OF THE HULK!

÷UUNNNHHH!÷

AN AWESOME DISPLAY OF BRUTE STRENGTH...

BUT THAT IS LITTLE MATCH FOR THE MYSTIC POWERS OF MY AXE...AS YOU SHALL SOON SEE!

STRANGE FORCE... GRIPPING HULK!

HO! HOW EASILY YOU CRUMBLE... AS ASGARD ITSELF SHALL SOON FALL TO ME!

STRENGTH... FADING! MUST ACT... QUICKLY! BEFORE IT'S... TOO LATE!

SEE HOW YON GIANT FALTERS, MY BEAUTEOUS ACCOMPLICE? AND, WITH THE TROLL LEGIONS AT OUR SIDES, SO SHALL ASGARD CRUMBLE BEFORE US!

BUT, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT...

÷WHA...?÷

NO ONE CAN DEFEAT HULK!

THE CREATURE STRUCK THE GROUND WITH SUCH FORCE THAT THINE AXE WAS JARRED FROM THY HANDS!

NOW WE SHALL PLAY THE GAME MY WAY!

THOOM!

LET THE TROLL LEGIONS ATTACK!

THEN, WITHIN A MERE *INSTANT*, HUNDREDS OF THE UNDERWORLD'S MINIONS ARE *UPON* THE SEETHING GREEN GOLIATH...

ATTACK! ATTACK! THE MONSTER MUST BE *DESTROYED!*

HURRY, YOU MINDLESS FOOLS! KILL HIM *QUICKLY!*

IN ONLY *SECONDS* ...WE ARE TO INVADE *ASGARD!*

YOU TRY TO *HURT* HULK! NOW HULK USE YOU AS *WEAPON!*

AND, BEFORE THE ONRUSHING ARMY CAN REACH ITS *QUARRY*...

CATCH ME, YOU DOLTS... *AAAGGGHHHH!*

LITTLE MEN HULK'S *ENEMIES*...WANT TO *KILL* HULK! BUT HULK WILL *STOP* THEM!

TONS OF *BRICKS* BETWEEN US GIVE HULK TIME TO *ESCAPE!*

HOOM

WHILE, ON THE *OTHER SIDE* OF THE PASSAGEWAY...

FEAR NOT! A MERE GESTURE FROM ME WILL *PROTECT* US FROM THE FALLING DEBRIS!

IT IS NOT *FEAR* WHICH FILLS MY HEART, WITLESS WOMAN--BUT RATHER *HATRED* FOR...

ENOUGH OF YOUR VENGEFUL WAYS! TOO MUCH TIME ALREADY HAVE WE DWINDLED ON THE *EARTHLING!*

WHEN ALL THAT *MATTERS* IS OUR CONQUEST OF THE REALM ETERNAL!

EVEN NOW, THE TROLL LEGIONS STAND *READY* ...AWAITING THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK...WHICH I GIVE THEM *NOW!*

FOR ONCE, WOMAN, THY WORDS HAVE THE RING OF *WISDOM!*

BUT, ONCE ASGARD IS *OURS*--VENGEANCE ON THE GREEN-SKINNED MORTAL SHALL BE *MINE!*

AND NOW, MINIONS OF THE TROLL KINGDOM, FOLLOW **ME**...TO THE ULTIMATE GLORY IN WHICH WE SOON SHALL **REVEL**...

...THE TOTAL DEFEAT OF ASGARD!

NOW YOU SPEAK AS YOU TRULY **ARE**...A RULER BORN... A MAN DESTINED TO **CONQUER!** GIVE THE **WORD**... AND THE ENCHANTRESS SHALL FOLLOW THY PATH TO **GLORY!**

BUT, AS THE INVASION FORCE BEGINS ITS MARCH TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING SURFACE REALM OF **ODIN**...

SOON ASGARD FACES INVASION-- AS IT HAS NOT SEEN IN **PAST**, AND OF THE MORTAL MEN CALL **HULK**-- THEE HAVE NOT SEEN THE **LAST!**

BUT, WHO WOULD **DARE** TO...

IT IS **NO USE!** SHE HATH FADED FROM OUR **SIGHT!**

AND THE PROPHECIES SHE HATH **MADE** TO US LEAVE US WITH BUT ONE COURSE OF **ACTION!**

ON TO ASGARD!

THEN, AS THE WARRIORS THREE BEGIN A DESPERATE DASH TO **WARN** THE CITY, THE GLEAMING SPIRES OF ASGARD GLIMMER QUIETLY IN THE PEACEFUL GLOW OF A GLISTENING SUN...

WHILE, THOUSANDS OF FEET **BELOW**, A MORE PERPLEXED THAN EVER **HULK** DECIDES UPON A COURSE OF **ACTION**...

HULK CAN'T FIND WAY **OUT**-- MUST GO BACK THE WAY HE **CAME!**

AND, IF ENEMIES STILL **WAIT** FOR ME--HULK WILL **SMASH** THEM!

BUT, AFTER BATTERING HIS WAY THROUGH THE WALL HE HAD BROUGHT DOWN ONLY MOMENTS *BEFORE,* THE HULK FINDS...

GONE! ENEMIES WERE *AFRAID* OF HULK... KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY TO *DEFEAT* HIM!

MUST HAVE RUN AWAY IN... *WAIT...* *ABOVE!* SAME MEN WHO ATTACKED HULK ARE CRAWLING TOWARD *SKY!*

MAYBE THEY'LL LEAD HULK BACK TO *SURFACE...* WITHOUT *KNOWING* IT!

NO WAY OUT *BELOW* ME-- ONLY *DARKNESS!*

HULK HAVE NO *CHOICE...* MUST FOLLOW ENEMY *UPWARDS!*

MUST JUMP AS HIGH AS I *CAN...NOW!*

HOWEVER, EVEN THE ALL-POWERFUL MUSCLES OF THE *HULK* ARE NOT ENOUGH TO PROPEL HIM THE SEVERAL THOUSAND FEET TO THE CHASM'S *MOUTH...*

HULK *MISSED* ...COULDN'T JUMP *HIGH* ENOUGH!

ROCKY WALLS *SLIPPERY...* HARD TO HANG *ONTO!*

HULK STARTING TO...

...FALL!

AS THE GREAT, GREEN GARGANTUA AGAIN PLUNGES TOWARD SEEMING *DEATH,* HOWEVER, HIS HUGE HAND REACHES OUT IN A FINAL, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO GRAB A PROTRUDING *LEDGE...*

MADE IT!

NOW... IF ONLY... I CAN PULL MY WAY... *UP!* ONLY *CHANCE!* MUST... CLAW WAY... TO *TOP!*

WHILE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AT THE MOUTH OF THE YAWNING CHASM, THE TROLL ARMIES POUR FORTH LIKE AN ENDLESS STREAM OF VENOM FROM A STRIKING **COBRA**--LASHING OUT TOWARD THE VERY HEART OF **ASGARD**...

ONWARD! ASGARD MUST BE OURS!!!

AND, IN THE IMPERIAL THRONE ROOM OF THE OMNIPOTENT **ODIN**...

AND OLDAR **ALSO** WARNED THAT ASGARD WOULD BE ATTACKED...

THE INVADERS **COME!** EVEN NOW I SEE THE CLOUD RAISED BY THEIR ARMIES ON YON DISTANT **HORIZON!**

SO BE IT! ASGARD HATH FACED INVASION BEFORE--AND **HELD!** SO SHALL SHE DO IT **AGAIN!** SOUND THE CALL TO **ARMS!**

TO ARMS! TO ARMS! THE REALM ETERNAL STANDS IN DANGER!

THE **BATTLE CALL!** WHO DARES TO TRED ON THE SACRED SOIL OF ASGARD?

'TIS NOT FOR US TO **QUESTION** THE WILL OF ODIN! WE CAN ONLY OBEY HIS IMPERIAL **CALL!**

THEN, AS THE MIGHTY ARMIES OF ASGARD BRACE FOR THE COMING **BATTLE**...

ALL IS IN **READINESS!** WITH THE AID OF MY ENCHANTING MIGHT--THE MEN OF ASGARD WILL STAND **HELPLESS** BEFORE THE TROLL **HORDES!**

THUS, LET THE ONSLAUGHT **BEGIN!**

AND SURELY, BEFORE THE SUN SETS, ASGARD SHALL BELONG TO... THE **ENCHANTRESS** ...AND THE **EXECUTIONER!**

HOWEVER, AS THE FIRST CLASHES OF COMBAT RESOUND THROUGHOUT THE REALM ETERNAL...

THE **TOP!** HULK HAS **ESCAPED!** HULK IS **FREE!**

BUT, WHAT'S THE **NOISE** I HEAR...IN THE **DISTANCE?**

SOUNDS LIKE **FIGHTING!** MAYBE MEN WHO TRIED TO HELP HULK--IN **TROUBLE!** HULK MUST GO **SEE!**

AND, IN TROUBLE *ARE* THE THREE ASGARDIANS WHOSE GOAL IT WAS TO AID THE HULK--ALONG WITH THE *REST* OF THEIR PEOPLE...

I--I CANNOT RAISE MINE SWORD TO *SMITE* THE ENEMY!

NOR CAN *I!* METHINKS THE LEGIONS OF ASGARD ARE *BEWITCHED!*

SLAY THEM! SLAY THEM!

ASGARD MUST BE DESTROYED --TO THE *LAST MAN!*

BUT, THE FUTURE OF THE REALM ETERNAL IS NOT SO BLEAK AS IT *SEEMS!* FOR, AT THAT SAME MOMENT, A FEW HUNDRED YARDS *AWAY...*

HULK WAS *RIGHT!* ENEMIES FROM BELOW *ATTACK* HIS FRIENDS!

BUT UNDER-EARTH CREATURES CAN'T *WIN*-- NOT WHEN *HULK* TURNS ON THEM!

THEN, AS A PAIR OF STEEL-STRONG LEG MUSCLES PROPEL THEIR OWNER THROUGH THE ASGARDIAN *SKIES...*

LOOK... UP ABOVE US!

IT IS THE GREEN-SKINNED BEING WHO FOUGHT US *BELOW!*

KILL HIM! THIS TIME HE CANNOT *ESCAPE* US!

THEY'RE ALL *FOOLS!* HULK BEAT THEM *ONCE*--BUT THEY ATTACK HIM *AGAIN!*

THERE'RE *THOUSANDS* OF THEM--ALL WITH *WEAPONS!* BUT THEY STILL NO MATCH FOR THE *HULK!*

SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE TROLLS CAN REACH HIM, THE HULK CLUTCHES HIS GIGANTIC FISTS TOGETHER--RAISES THEM HIGH ABOVE HIS *HEAD*, AND...

HULK CAN BEAT A *HUNDRED*...A *THOUSAND* MEN! HULK ONLY NEED HIS *STRENGTH!*

NOW HULK'S ENEMIES *LEARN*...IF THEY *LIVE!*

THOOM!

WHAT IS THIS?

THE VERY EARTH *BELOW* US SEEMS TO *TREMBLE*--AND CAUSES US TO LOSE OUR *BALANCE!*

IT IS THE GREEN-SKINNED *MORTAL* WHO HAS DONE THIS! BUT I CAN-NOT BE *DEFEATED* ...NOT WHEN VICTORY IS SO *NEAR!*

FLEE! THE GROUND *ITSELF* HAS TURNED AGAINST US!

BUT, WHILE THE TROLLS RUN FOR THEIR VERY *LIVES*...

FIE!

WITH WHAT MANNER OF COWARDS HAVE WE *ALLIED* OUR-SELVES?

THE JACKALS FLEE IN ABJECT *TERROR* AT A SLIGHT TREMOR OF THE *SOIL!*

BUT IT MATTERS *NOT!* VICTORY *STILL* WILL BE OURS!

HOWEVER, IT SEEMS A CERTAIN GREEN-SKINNED *GIANT* JUST MIGHT HAVE *OTHER* IDEAS! FOR, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT...

ENEMIES RUN-- BUT THEY CAN'T GET *AWAY!* I'LL JUMP INTO *CRACK* THAT I FORCED OPEN--

...AND SPREAD IT UNTIL GROUND SPLITS LIKE IN BIG *EARTH-QUAKE!*

AND, AS THE HULK STRAINS HIS EVERY MUSCLE TO THE HILT TO *ACHIEVE* HIS GOAL...

I KNOW NOT WHO THIS MIGHTY ALLY *BE*--BUT HIS EFFORTS SHALL NOT GO *UNAIDED!*

BY THE SUPREME POWER VESTED IN THE *SCEPTOR OF STRENGTH,* LET THE HUNGRY EARTH OPEN ITS *JAWS*-- AND *SWALLOW UP* THOSE WHO WOULD DESECRATE MY *REALM!*

THEN, WITHIN THE TINIEST FRACTION OF A *SECOND,* AN UNSEEN BOLT OF FORCE RIPS INTO THE GROUND TROD BY THE FLEEING TROLLS, AND...

AAAIIIEEEE!-- THE GROUND *OPENS!* IT IS *ENGULFING* US!

WHILE, ON THE *OTHER SIDE* OF THE NEWLY OPENED PIT...

GROUND TEARING *IN TWO*--JUST AS HULK *KNEW* IT WOULD!

CAN'T STOP *NOW,* THOUGH-- NOT UNTIL ALL GO BACK *UNDERGROUND*... WHERE THEY *COME* FROM!

HULK WILL COVER HOLE WITH *ROCKS!* ENEMIES MUST NEVER COME TO *SURFACE* AGAIN!

UNDERGROUND MEN MUST NEVER *FORGET* HULK! THEY MUST REMEMBER NO ONE CAN *BEAT* HIM!

BUT, WHILE THE HULK PUTS FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE TASK AT HAND...

THOSE SNIVELING COWARDS! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET THE EXECUTIONER CONVINCE ME TO LET THEM JOIN US!

NOW OUR CAUSE IS TRULY LOST--FOR MY SPELLS HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE ACCURSED ODIN!

STILL, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE ABOMINABLE MORTAL, WE MIGHT HAVE WON THE BATTLE--BEFORE ODIN REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING!

THUS, EVEN IN DEFEAT, SHALL THE ENCHANTRESS HAVE HER FINAL REVENGE ...THE DEATH OF THE MORTAL MEN CALL HULK!

SUDDENLY, AS THE HULK TURNS TO FACE AN ONRUSHING FANDRALL...

ZAP!!

NO! OUR MYSTERIOUS ALLY FROM EARTH IS STRUCK DOWN AS I APPROACH HIM!

COULD FATE BE SO CRUEL AS TO REWARD HIS NOBLE DEEDS IN THE BEHALF OF ASGARD WITH... DEATH?

HE--HE BREATHES NOT! TRULY HE BE...

NAY, BRAVE FANDRALL--FOR NONE WHO HATH LIFTED HIS HAND IN BEHALF OF ODIN MAY SUFFER SUCH A FATE!

BY ALL THE POWER WHICH BE MINE TO COMMAND...THE MORTAL SHALL LIVE!

SO BE IT!

AND, INDEED, EVEN BEFORE THE SCEPTOR IN ODIN'S HAND CAN BE LOWERED...

WHO--WHO ARE YOU? WHY AM I HERE?

WHY DO YOU POINT WEAPON AT HULK?

HULK WAS WRONG! YOU'RE NOT MY FRIENDS EITHER! NO ONE IS HULK'S FRIEND!

STAND BACK, MORTAL--LEST YOU FEEL THE WRATH OF ODIN!

YOU CAN'T THREATEN HULK! HULK WILL DESTROY YOU--JUST LIKE HE DID THOSE THAT ATTACKED YOU!

INSOLENT FOOL! NONE MAY ADDRESS THE OMNIPOTENT PRESENCE IN SUCH A TONE!

MY LORD...WAIT! I BEG OF THEE TO HAVE MERCY!

THE EARTHLING KNOWS NOT WHAT HE SAYS--FOR HIS BRAIN HATH BEEN AFFECTED BY SOME MYSTERIOUS RAY!

WHAT? BALDER DARES TO INTERFERE WITH THE JUSTICE OF ODIN?

NAY, MY LORD! HE BEGS THEE TO REALIZE THAT THE MORTAL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEEDS!

FANDRAL SPEAKS THE TRUTH, OMNIPOTENT ONE! ALL THIS HATH BEEN MADE KNOWN TO US BY OLDAR, THE ORACLE!

ENOUGH! THE DECISION OF ODIN HATH ALREADY BEEN RENDERED!

SINCE THE MORTAL DID STRIKE A HAND FOR ASGARD IN BATTLE...HIS PENALTY SHALL NOT BE DEATH!

INSTEAD, HE SHALL BE RETURNED FROM WHENCE HE DID COME--FOR SUCH AS HE CAN HAVE NO PLACE WITHIN THE REALM ETERNAL!

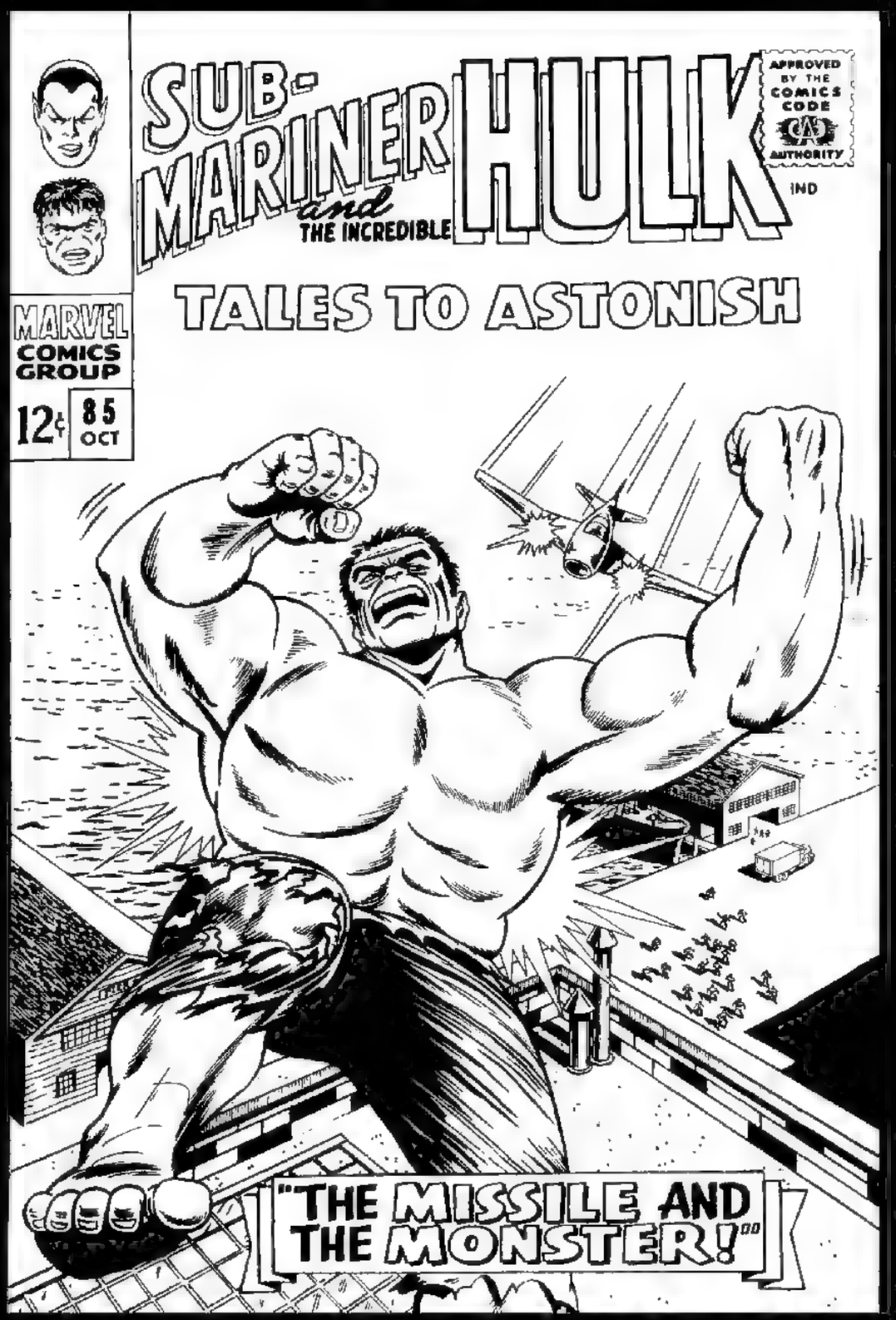
I HAVE SPOKEN!

EVERYTHING... GOING BLANK! MOVING...SO FAST... BUT...TO WHERE?

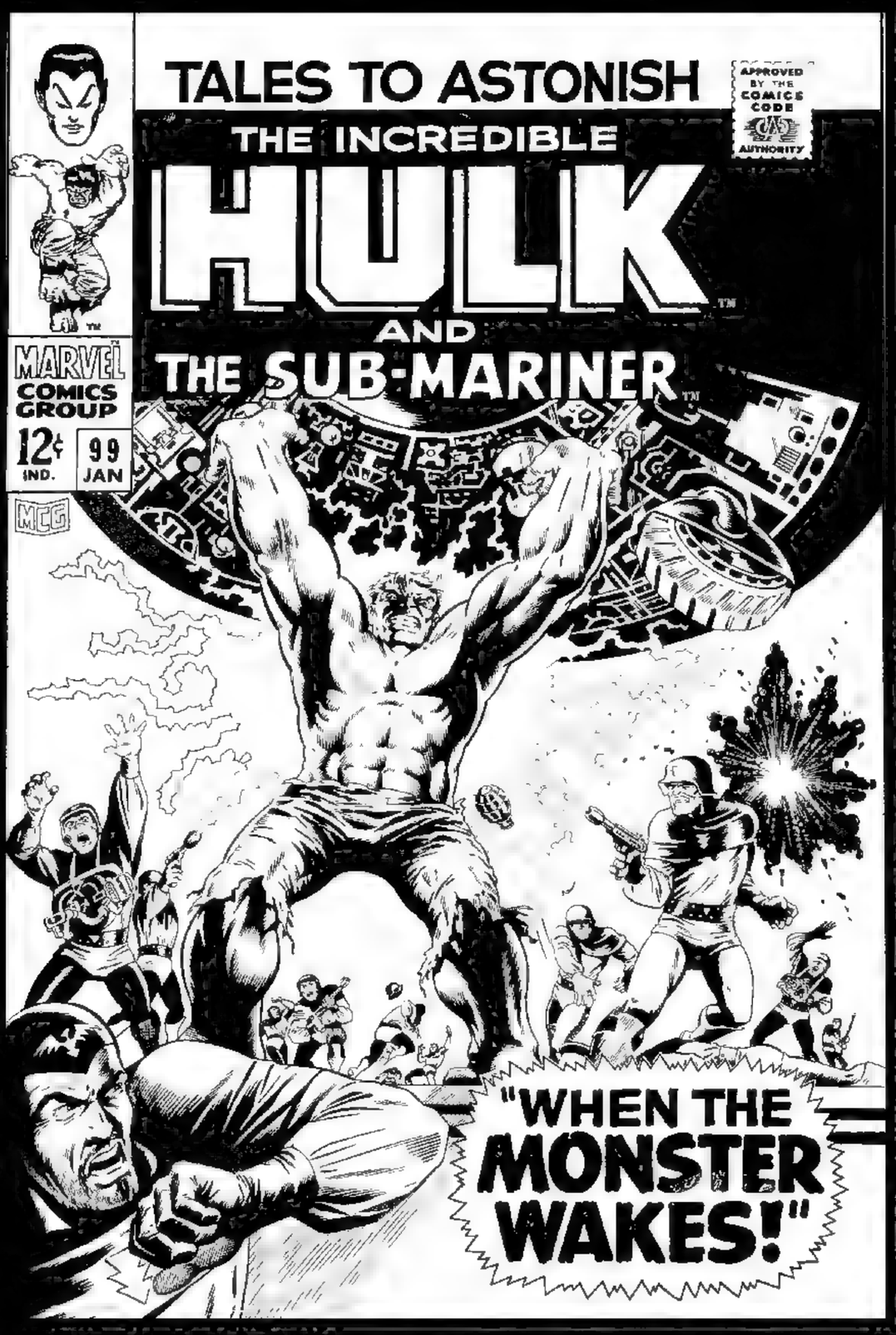
AS IF YOU HADN'T ALREADY GUESSED--

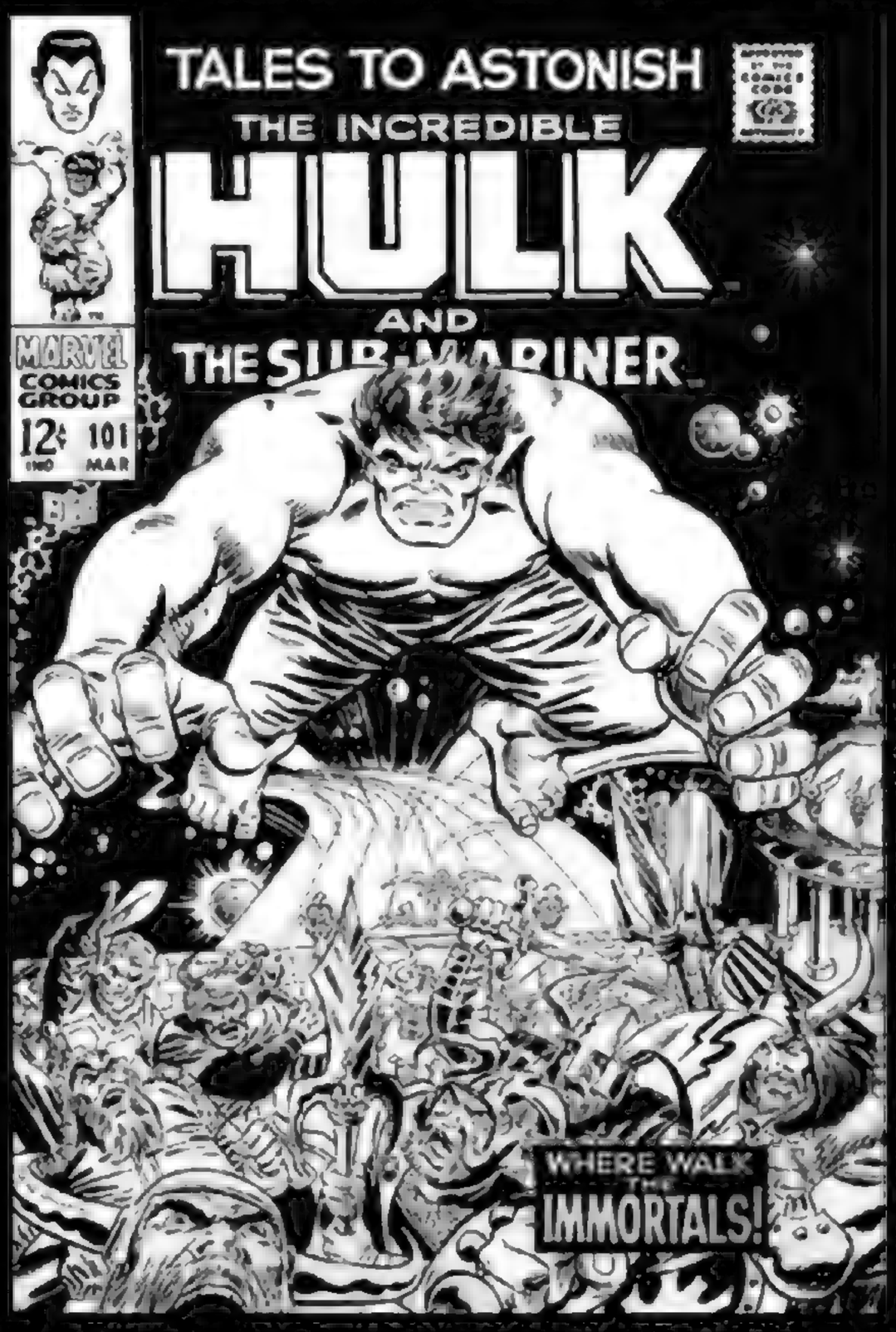
TO BE HULK-INUED!

Tales to Astonish production photostats displaying the cover artists' original renditions



SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IND
TALES TO ASTONISH
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ 87 OCT
AT LAST!! THE SECRET OF THE HULK REVEALED FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE!





BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust in to the Depression-era economy. Meanwhile, Martin Goodman's Timely Comics needed staff, and Stan, Goodman's wife's cousin, joined as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so for his comic book work he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

He quickly graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories, and before long his proficiency on the job earned him the position of managing editor while still a teenager. His tenure in the '50s saw the company's expansion (under the name Atlas) to include horror, crime, Western, war, satire and romance comics.

All this was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists including the formidably talented Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to find a way to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Lee figured he would co-opt the super-hero revival at DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Marvel's heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just as the average person might.

Lee's innovation sent shock waves throughout comics, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold. Under his direction, the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and the Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Lee developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus broadening the story possibilities for eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Lee also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Lee wrote virtually every comic that Marvel published during the '60s. But when he was promoted to publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Lee has returned to write scripts for the occasional single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. His standing in the field was recognized with his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1994, and to this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

MARIE SEVERIN

Billing as "The Nicest Person in Comics" may accurately describe the high esteem in which Marie Severin's peers have always held her, but the moniker doesn't approach the high quality of her work. Fortunately, it doesn't need to: a cursory glance at her accomplishments will settle the issue of her artistic legacy. Along with Ramona Fradon, Severin stands as one of the first women to get through the door of the boys' club of comic professionals.

Severin and her older brother, John, learned how to draw early in their lives, both trained by their mother and father. In her early twenties she was hired at Bill Gaines' E.C. Comics, taking on a variety of tasks including inking and coloring, eventually becoming Harvey Kurtzman's right-hand gal and soaking up as much of his zany outlook as possible.

In 1967 Severin took a job at Marvel, first penciling Doctor Strange in *Strange Tales* and then the Incredible Hulk in *Tales to Astonish*, which she drew for over a year before teaching Herb Trimpe the ropes. In addition to her regular penciling and inking gigs, Severin became one of the top cover artists for Marvel and continued her work as one of the field's most accomplished colorists. All while keeping the Bullpen lively!

Throughout her career, Severin developed an artistic versatility that allowed her to master the bestial fury of the Incredible Hulk, the regal power of the Sub-Mariner and the super-hero satire of *Not Brand Echh!* In fact, it could be said that Severin's most indelible contribution to the Marvel Age was in that singular Marvel humor mag, where her *MAD*-laced bent for humor was allowed to flourish.

More accomplishments continued into the '70s, when she worked in tandem with John Severin on *Kull the Conqueror*, a work she considers among her personal favorites, as well as designing the costume for The Cat (later Hellcat). She also designed the costume for the first incarnation of Spider-Woman. Her peers proudly brought her into the ranks of the Eisner Hall of Fame in 2001. Today, Severin is retired, but can still be seen contributing material to projects much to the pleasure of Ghoulunatics and True Believers alike.

JOHN BUSCEMA

Though primarily known for his long tenure as one of Marvel Comics' most prolific pencilers, John Buscema began his celebrated career at the age of 21 with Timely Comics. After Timely closed its in-house Bullpen, Buscema pursued comics work for a time before he left comics altogether for advertising in 1958.

When he returned to comics, however, he did so with a vengeance. Stan Lee recruited him away from advertising and quickly ensconced him into the upper ranks of Marvel artists. Picking up where *Avengers* mainstay Don Heck left off, "Big

John" began what would be one of the title's definitive artistic runs. The much-anticipated *Silver Surfer* series was launched with Buscema at the helm, and top-tier books like *Fantastic Four* and *Thor* were entrusted to his care after Jack Kirby left Marvel for DC Comics.

Buscema's bold, muscular artwork commanded the comic-book page with realistic figurework that represented the next evolutionary step in post-Kirby Marvel Comics style. The respect accorded him within Marvel as an artist's artist was of such renown that he literally wrote the book on drawing, composing *How To Draw Comics the Marvel Way* with Stan Lee, the classic "how to" book in comic-book illustration.

He worked from the '70s through the '90s on nearly every title in the Marvel stable, including his personal favorite, *Conan the Barbarian*, with Roy Thomas. He retired in 1996, but returned every now and then to the comics scene until he passed away after a battle with cancer in 2002, the same year he was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame.

BILL EVERETT

One of the true pioneers of comics' Golden Age, Bill Everett is remembered as the man behind Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner, the character who helped launch pulp publisher Martin Goodman's *Marvel Comics* #1. Born in 1917 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Everett held a lifelong fascination with the sea. By his early twenties he started chasing his second muse to be an artist, joining Centaur Publications, where he developed material alongside Lloyd Jacquet. Their character Amazing-Man is notable for being one of the first attempts at capitalizing on the success of Superman.

He followed Jacquet to help launch a new studio start-up, Funnies, Inc., where he was part of a small stable of artists that helped package content for comic-book publishers. Everett lost no time in merging his two passions, introducing the Sub-Mariner in 1939. Everett's Sub-Mariner was unpredictably brash and a scourge against anyone who would get in his way, whether a Nazi or a New York City cop!

For three years, Everett lent an anarchic edge to Namor's adventures before being drafted in 1942. After the war, he picked up his pencil again and worked on the character frequently until Timely cancelled their super hero titles in 1949. As the '50s began, Stan Lee tapped Everett as one of his top men, giving him *Marvel Boy/Astonishing*, one of the first attempts at revitalizing the waning popularity of super heroes. He also drew the famous issues of *Venus* after the blonde goddess' comic took a turn into the horror genre. Everett couldn't be kept away from his most famous creation for long, though, returning in 1953 for a 10-issue run on *Sub-Mariner* (regarded by many as his best work on the character).

After *Sub-Mariner*, Everett spent his time devoted to stories for Atlas' war and horror books, as well as contributing covers across the entire line. The 1957 Atlas implosion forced him to leave comics for more consistent work. In 1964, he was beckoned back to Stan Lee's fledgling Marvel Comics to launch the new series *Daredevil* featuring the blind lawyer Matt Murdock. Later in the decade, Everett had the chance to do more Marvel work, drawing Hulk in *Tales to Astonish* and Dr. Strange in *Strange Tales.* He also paid a return engagement to drawing Sub-Mariner, first in the pages of *Tales to Astonish*, and then another beautiful stint on *Sub-Mariner* across issues #50-58, the last regular run of comics Everett would draw before passing away in 1973. In 2000, his trailblazing contributions to the field were recognized by the Eisner Hall of Fame.

GARY FRIEDRICH

The early days of Gary Friedrich's life as a comics writer have a similar arc to that of teenage pal Roy Thomas. The pair befriended each other in their high school days and established a bond through their love of comics. After Thomas made the trip to New York City and started his comics career in earnest, he made it clear to his pal in Missouri that there might be a job in the field for him. Friedrich scored his first work from Dick Giordano, writing various Charlton comics including *Blue Beetle* stories drawn by none other than Steve Ditko.

At the same time, he picked up work at Marvel, his first effort being the Western *Ghost Rider* with Dick Ayers and Roy Thomas. Other contributions during this time included other Westerns like *Rawhide Kid* and *Two-Gun Kid*, as well as war titles like *Captain Savage* and *Sgt. Fury*, wherein he started a four-year run that saw him cautiously but profoundly merge a sense of social commentary and allegory into the long-running series. Beyond his work on these titles, Friedrich contributed to titles that were in transition between regular writers, including *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Captain Marvel*.

The early '70s saw Friedrich helm Marvel's latest new war title, *Combat Kelly*, but his most significant contribution of the era was taking place in the pages of the showcase title *Marvel Spotlight*. Friedrich, along with Roy Thomas and artist Mike Ploog, introduced the flaming-skulled, chopper-riding Johnny Blaze. He wrote the first dozen stories featuring the iconic character and in the meantime wrote a faithful adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic novel in *Monster of Frankenstein*. These were to be his last major contributions to Marvel.

After a stint with the short-lived Atlas/Seaboard company in the mid-'70s and then a brief run writing *Captain Britain* stories for Marvel UK, Gary left the comics scene, though he is still a featured guest at comic conventions.

JERRY GRANDENETTI

An acolyte of Will Eisner, artist Jerry Grandenetti sprang from his mentor's studio to DC, where he started an almost two-decade association with the company. Along with Joe Kubert, Grandenetti was a celebrated war artist for DC, drawing titles like *Our Army At War* and *Star Spangled War Stories*; in fact, a panel of his art from an *All-American Men of War* #89 cover was cribbed by Roy Lichtenstein for the pop artist's *Jet Pilot*. His ink wash covers were a style unique for the time, giving a painterly effect to the art that his writer, Robert Kanigher, noted in his later years was 30 years ahead of its time. He largely stayed

away from the super-hero genre, preferring to draw Westerns, science fiction and mystery comics. During the late '60s, he drew the Spectre and the Phantom Stranger and launched *Prez* with Joe Simon. His restless creativity pushed him to leave DC, moving to Warren's *Creepy*, *Eerie* and *Vampirella*, where he experimented under the auspices of editor Archie Goodwin, turning out controversial and quirky layouts of gothic-tinged horror. In 1972, Grandenetti left work in comics for advertising. He passed away in 2010 at the age of 85.

GIL KANE

A gentleman and master of the medium, Gil Kane gained elite status as a comic artist through the course of a storied career. The signature smooth and sinuous anatomy of his characters, vertiginous camera angles and dynamic action present in every page gave Kane's work a language all its own.

Born in Latvia in 1926 as Eli Katz, his family moved to Brooklyn, New York, three years later. He studied art in high school but left when he sensed an opportunity was in the offing with MLJ Comics (later Archie Comics). He would also do spot work for the other studios, but with World War II roaring, the young man enlisted in the Army and served in the Pacific.

Upon his return, he permanently adopted the pseudonym Gil Kane and got back to the business of creating comics. By the late '50s, Kane truly began to make his mark, introducing the new Green Lantern, Hal Jordan, in the pages of *Showcase*. To fill in time in his work schedule, he made a pitch to DC Comics to revive the Golden Age character Doll Man, this time updated with the name The Atom, and here, too, he struck gold.

His first work for Marvel included Hulk and Captain America stories, as well as a stint on *Captain Marvel*, which to Kane represented some of his finest work to date. He would gain greater acclaim for his run on *The Amazing Spider-Man* that included the first comics to buck the Comics Code. A few years later, he was also behind the drawing board for the pivotal "Death of Gwen Stacy" story line.

The '70s were a particularly fertile period for Kane, as he became Marvel's top cover artist, delivering dozens of iconic images. Teaming once again with his *Captain Marvel* collaborator, Roy Thomas, Kane gave life to the newly christened hero Adam Warlock and introduced the kung fu action hero Iron Fist.

Always searching to expand the audience, format and sophistication of the medium, Kane conceived and illustrated the independent graphic novel *Blackmark* in 1971. He also created the award-winning daily newspaper strip *Star Hawks* with writer Ron Goulart.

Much to the pleasure of comic-book readers, Kane's work appeared regularly until 2000, with brief stops in the '70s and '80s when he worked in TV animation. He was ushered into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1997 and died three years later at the age of 74, leaving behind a legacy that has inspired generations of fans and artists.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 and grew up in New York's gritty Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the name Jack Kirby, but his experiences in the neighborhood would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations would never dream of going.

After early strip work helped get his name out to employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed Captain America for Timely Comics, and Kirby immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon and Kirby were working at National/DC, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like Sandman and Manhunter. He served honorably in World War II, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

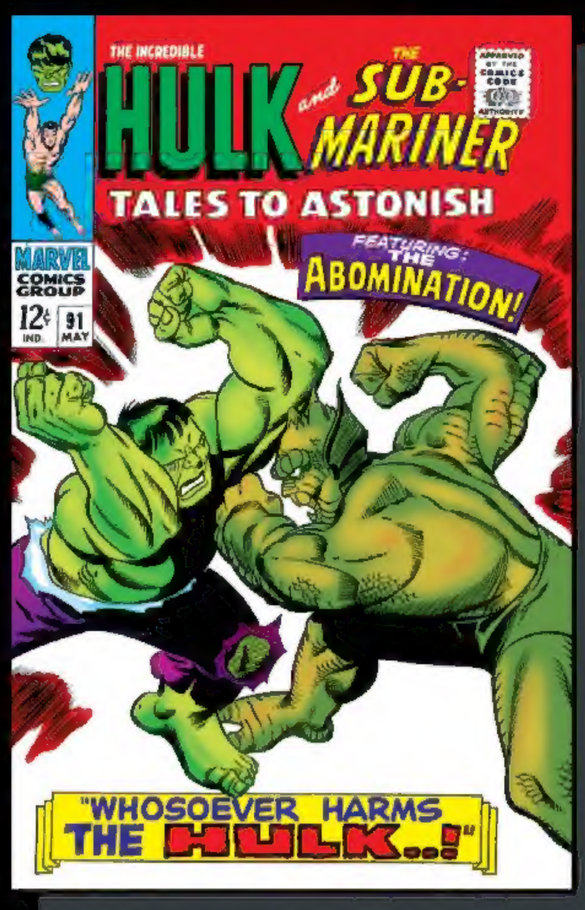
After the war, Simon and Kirby established the romance genre with *Young Romance*, produced titles including *Boy's Ranch*, *Black Magic* and *Fighting American*, and started their own imprint, Mainline. Kirby followed with *Challengers of the Unknown*, Green Arrow and the strip *Sky Masters of the Space Force*. By 1958, he began a prolific output at Atlas/Marvel that covered Western, war and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Kirby brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled action and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters.

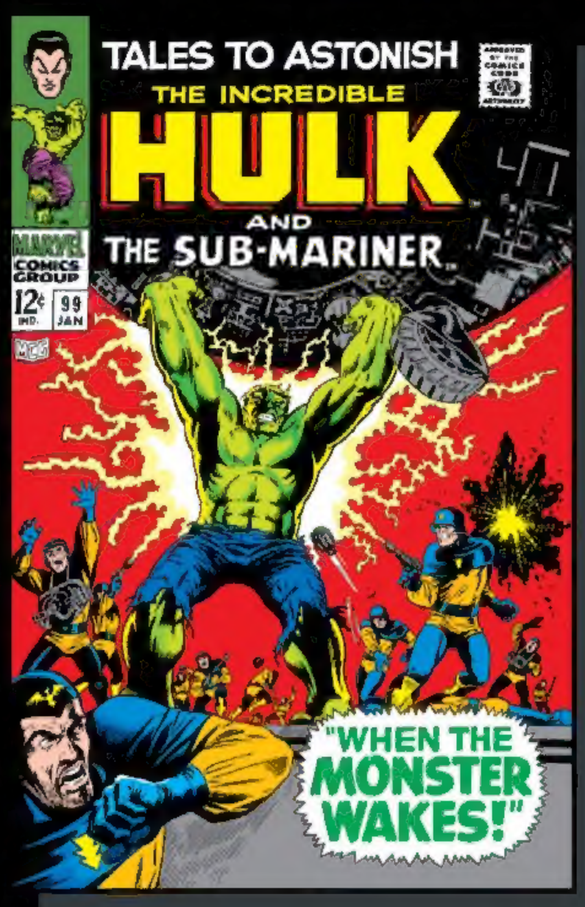
Through it all, he earned the nickname "The King," and his way of doing things became so popular that it set the tone throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated on to books by working over Kirby's layouts. Kirby left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling scripting chores as well as art duties. His "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the late '70s to lend his imagination to *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur* and *Machine Man*. He also returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Kirby was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame's 1987 inaugural class and continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

Biographical material researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

SUB-MARINER and THE INCREDIBLE HULK
LES TO ASTONISH
12¢ IND 87 JAN
AT LAST!! THE SECRET OF THE HULK REVEALED FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE!


THE INCREDIBLE HULK and THE SUB-MARINER
TALES TO ASTONISH
FEATURING: THE ABOMINATION!
12¢ IND 91 MAY
"WHOSOEVER HARMS THE HULK...!"



THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS PROUDLY PRESENT THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COMICS AND SUPER HEROES FROM THEIR VERY BEGINNINGS IN A SERIES OF PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED ARCHIVAL VOLUMES.

MARVEL

COLLECTING *TALES TO ASTONISH* #80-101 & *THE INCREDIBLE HULK* #102

ZONE